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WORLD CUP COLD WAR AGAINST GOLAC

SHOOT!

25p

11th APRIL, 1981

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**'NO CRISIS
AT ARSENAL'**
—John Hollins
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SHOOT view!

ALAN Rough has taken more than his fair share of criticism over the years. It was perhaps inevitable that he would be subjected to such public abuse after some classic clangers in the goal-keeper's jersey of Scotland.

His blunders, beamed to the nation through unfriendly television cameras, were written into the scripts of most comedians.

Alan Rough became as big a national joke as the unfortunate Frank Haffey after England's 9-3 drubbing of Scotland at Wembley in April, 1961.

So it is with much pleasure that we change tack and salute the current success of Alan Rough after an exhilarating display against Israel and sound performances for Partick Thistle in the Scottish Premier Division.

He has just been awarded a whisky company's Player of the Month award for a record third time, a tribute to his talents.

Few have endured more heart-aches than Alan Rough. He is often the butt of cruel remarks from the terraces, and who wants to be a national joke?

Thankfully, he has shouldered the stinging criticism with dignity, courage, and a quiet determination to prove his detractors wrong.

Destroyed

His confidence has been badly bruised but never totally destroyed. They say in Scotland that he is as tough as old boots, and a sense of humour endears him to most managers, including Scotland's Jock Stein.

Goalkeepers are a rare breed, punished if they make mistakes, yet rarely given the kudos they deserve if they do a good job.

That Alan Rough should survive his personal nightmare is a tribute to his strength. Others are not so lucky.

Paul Barron was hailed as a natural successor to Pat Jennings at Arsenal. He became impatient to play in the First Division and has struggled to fulfil his potential at Crystal Palace.

Orient rescued Mervyn Day's career after the boo-boys measured him for early retirement at West Ham.

Chris Woods was once as essential to the plans of Nottingham Forest. Now, he is on loan to Norwich after failing to make the grade at Queens Park Rangers.

Graham Moseley's goalkeeping exploits have taken him from Blackburn, to Derby, to Aston Villa (on loan), to Walsall (on loan) and on to Brighton. This season his career fell apart when Albion's manager Alan Mullery condemned him for making costly mistakes and dropped him after signing Perry Digweed.

Alan Rough's change of fortune this season at League and international level should serve as a gentle reminder to his colleagues between the sticks that there is often light at the end of the darkest tunnels.

ARSENAL manager Terry Neill recently cast his cool, calculated eye over what is left this season for the Highbury outfit and openly admitted that as far as he was concerned, this campaign had been a failure.

As early as January, with still five months of the season to run, The Gunners had nothing more to aim for than finishing sufficiently high enough in the League to earn themselves a UEFA Cup spot next season. And on recent performances, even that seems to be an unlikely conclusion.

And while even a place in Europe might be enough for some clubs, it certainly isn't for the North London giants.

Their hat-trick of F.A. Cup Final appearances, together with a place in last season's European Cup-Winners' Cup Final, had kept them



COACH DON HOWE

to drop their heads and let it affect them in that way. The opposite, in fact. We're all more determined than ever to work on the things that have been going wrong, and put them right.

"I've lost count of the number of times we've scored first in matches, only to let the opposition back into the game. And we seem to have played well against the bigger names, while against the so-called lesser sides, we've just not done ourselves justice, and consequently not got the results we should have achieved.

"Maybe it's our concentration that's letting us down, or perhaps at the moment we've lost that cold killer touch. Whatever it is, we're determined to put that old bite back into our play.

"The players know they have a tremendous amount to live up to

'NO CRISIS AT ARSENAL'

in the very forefront of English soccer since Neill took over.

But so impressive and jealously guarded is the football history at Highbury, they go into a season not *hoping* for success... tradition demands it.

Now they have been reduced to mere also-rans, and it's a situation which Neill boldly declares will not be allowed to continue.

Success

Don Howe, Neill's right-hand man at Highbury, and the coach behind so much of the success and so many of the fine players to come out of the club in recent years, hasn't been pulling any punches, either, in his assessment of just what has gone wrong — and why.

"Perhaps our players are less hungry for success than before," Howe has suggested. "They have achieved so much in recent years that they might be finding it hard to battle as well as they did.

"Whatever it is, they have got to realise there's no way they'll be allowed to sit back and say it's just not our season," insists Howe. "Like it or not, there will be no easing up here. Everyone has got

to pull together and fight through this bad spell."

Straight talking indeed. And the kind of bluntness the players fully appreciate, and more important, are determined to respond to, if John Hollins is anything to go by.

Hollins, who has stood in as skipper for much of this season in the absence of David O'Leary, has always been a battler of the highest order. And he stresses that the players aren't looking to hide from the criticism that's been coming their way lately.

"We don't need anyone to tell us we haven't been producing the kind of results that this club has come to expect," said Hollins. "Standards have been set so high at Arsenal, that only the utmost commitment is tolerated.

"And as individuals, we've all been guilty at times this season of falling below that expected level. But we have an honest bunch of players here. They accept criticism when it's due. They're not the kind

here," insists Hollins. "No-one is left in any doubt about that from the moment they arrive. And it's because of the reputation the club so rightly enjoys, that when things do begin to slip, even just a little, everyone sits up and takes notice.

"The Press in particular have been posing all sorts of questions about there being a *crisis* at this club. That's rubbish! Obviously it's been sparked off by our performances in the Cup competitions this season, where we have been particularly strong in previous years.

"We went out of the League Cup early on, which was bad enough. But we had the added misfortune to fall at the hands of our North London rivals, Tottenham Hotspur... that was guaranteed to stir things up. Then, of course, we went to Everton in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup, and were k.o'd by the kind of last minute, fluke goal that no one can do anything about.

"But what people seem to forget

Gunners stars off form

ONE of Arsenal's most recent defeats was away to struggling Leicester City, and their striker Alan Young reckons that The Gunners are not the force they were.

"I know it may sound strange coming from a team struggling against relegation, but we wouldn't mind playing Arsenal every week," says Young.

"At Highbury (pictured right) they were a different class to us, but we were still learning the First Division trade then.

"Arsenal have been going through a very poor spell by their standards, and they certainly don't compare with the top sides like Ipswich and Villa at the moment.

"But they have some brilliant players in their side — such as Sansom, Stapleton and Sunderland.

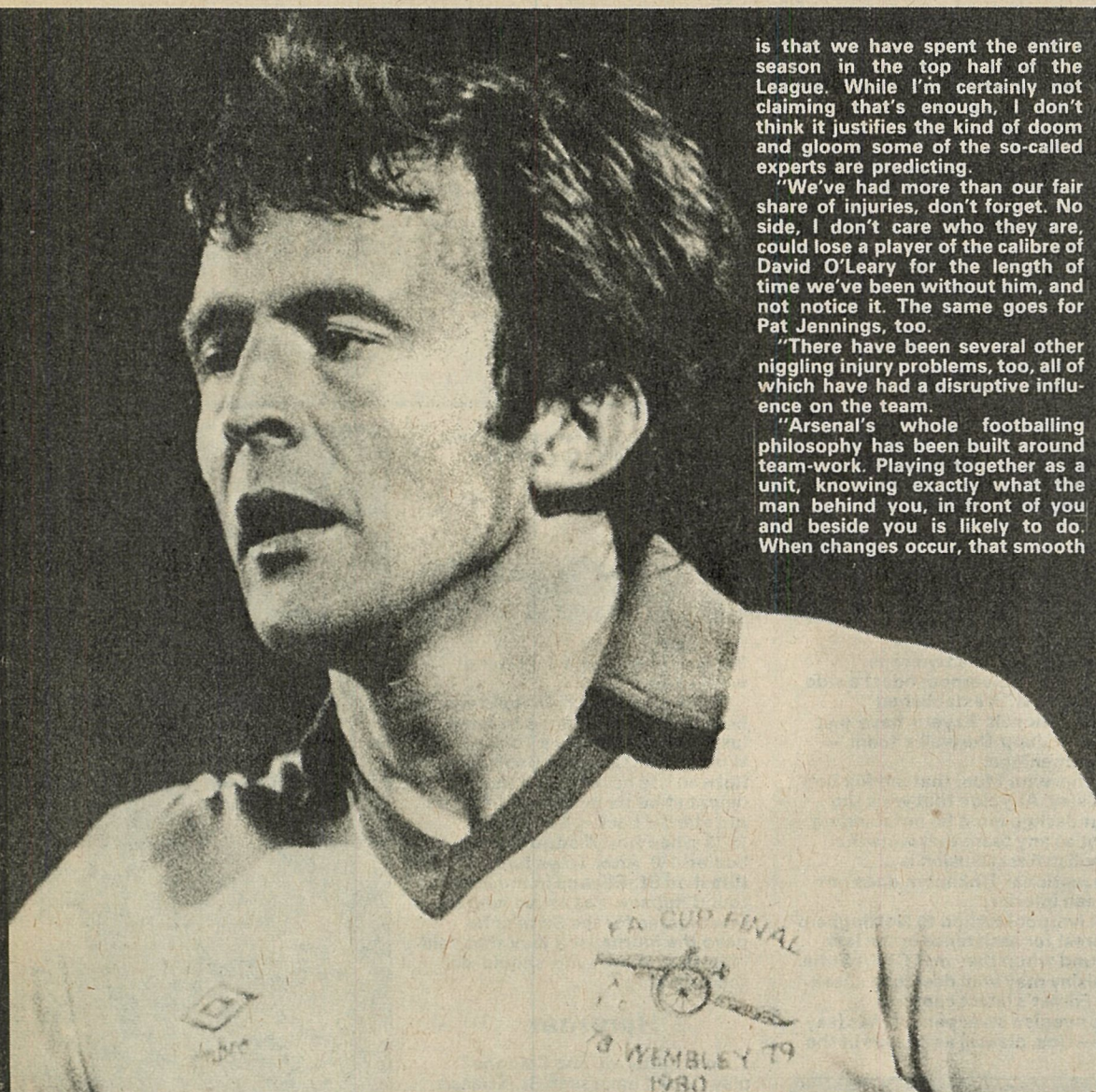
"I think it is just a case of a few individuals playing below par, and I reckon they should improve soon."

Those sentiments are echoed by Manchester City skipper Paul Power, whose side were beaten 2-0 at Highbury in February.

"Their situation is comparable to that of Manchester United," he says. "This certainly isn't the beginning of an Arsenal decline, it is simply that they have gone through a lean season.

"Four of five of their players





is that we have spent the entire season in the top half of the League. While I'm certainly not claiming that's enough, I don't think it justifies the kind of doom and gloom some of the so-called experts are predicting.

"We've had more than our fair share of injuries, don't forget. No side, I don't care who they are, could lose a player of the calibre of David O'Leary for the length of time we've been without him, and not notice it. The same goes for Pat Jennings, too.

"There have been several other niggling injury problems, too, all of which have had a disruptive influence on the team.

"Arsenal's whole footballing philosophy has been built around team-work. Playing together as a unit, knowing exactly what the man behind you, in front of you and beside you is likely to do. When changes occur, that smooth

rhythm is bound to be upset.

"Looking on the bright side, though, the enforced changes have thrown up a couple of really promising youngsters in Paul Davis and Brian McDermott. Brian in particular has shown himself capable of doing one of the toughest jobs in football... scoring goals in the First Division.

"I know the boss has described the season as a failure. But I believe he was talking in tangible terms, of Cups and medals. And, of course, in that respect he's right. But I'm sure he'll agree that no season is a failure, provided you learn from it. And I believe the young players in particular have learnt a great deal from what has been the other side of the soccer coin for them.

"That knowledge, plus the discovery of lads like Davis and McDermott could, in the end, turn out to be the springboard for even greater success for this club."

Injuries apart, a major factor in Arsenal's poor season is undoubtedly the fact that they haven't replaced Liam Brady, following his summer transfer to Juventus.

Importance

Outsiders, while far from underestimating the importance of Brady to Arsenal, saw a ready-made replacement for him in Graham Rix. But rather than move the wispish Rix to a more central midfield role — one he would prefer himself — Don Howe has decided to keep him out wide on the left, because of what Howe sees as his valuable link-up with Kenny Sansom.

Neill has indicated he is prepared to spend money to bring new faces to Highbury. And the arrival of Peter Nicholas from Crystal Palace recently could help to solve their midfield problems.

Neill's troubles might not end there though, as the contracts of both Frank Stapleton and David O'Leary are due for renewal in the summer, and speculation over them leaving Highbury is rife.

"Whether they stay or go is all pure speculation at the moment," Hollins says. "Besides, it's a management matter, nothing to do with the rest of the players. But whatever happens, there is no doubt in my mind that this club will win through. It has to. It's bigger than all of us."

High standards

IT IS not surprising that the standards expected of an Arsenal player are so demanding when one considers their past record.

They have won the League Cham-

pionship on eight occasions since 1930, and are one of only two sides to have captured the title three times in succession.

They have won the F.A. Cup five times and reached another six Wembley Finals. Their appearance in last year's Final against West Ham was again their third in a row.

In 1971 they became only the second team this century to perform the League and F.A. Cup double, and Arsenal have also captured the European Fairs Cup in 1970.

have lost form, but Arsenal have the men to come back and do well."

He said Arsenal's central defenders David O'Leary and Willie Young were two of the First Division's best performers and that their spearhead, comprising Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland, was one of the most effective in the League. Their weakness, he said, was on the right flank, where John Devine and John Hollins have shared the number two shirt this season.

"Remember, they've never really set the League on fire since they won the double ten years ago.

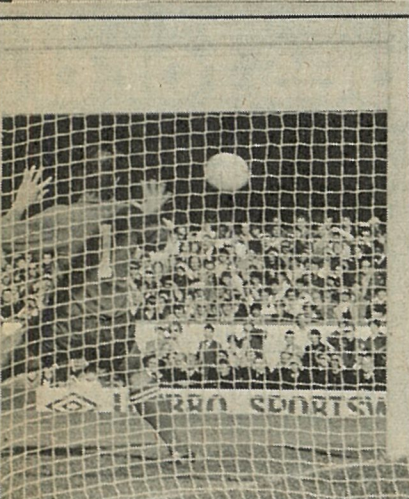
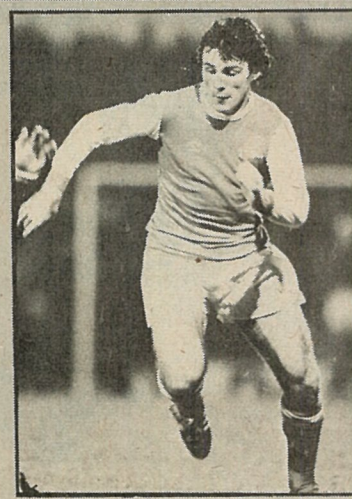
"Since then they have always finished around fifth position, which is what they'll probably achieve this season — so I don't think they've done that badly."

Stapleton struggles

FRANK STAPLETON looks like having his leanest season since he became a regular four seasons ago. After starting 1980/81 with a goal in each of the first five games the Eire international has struggled to find the back of the net and has scored only another nine since that goal-burst.

"Things went a bit flat after the F.A. Cup defeat at Everton," he says. "We've missed the involvement of Cup competitions, especially after last season. When you play a lot of games the momentum carries you through.

"Our away form has also been disappointing, with only two wins against ten last time round. Our home form has been pretty much the same."



THE ironic aspect of the 1980/81 European Cup is that it's almost certain that none of the Semi-Finalists will be in next season's tournament... unless they triumph in the Paris Final at the end of May.

Liverpool, Bayern, Inter and Real Madrid have all had inconsistent seasons in the League, although between them they have played 270 European Cup-ties over the years and that sort of experience can count for more than current League form at this stage.

Wolfgang Dremmier, Kurt Niedermayer, Klaus Augenthaler and Udo Horsmann — not one full cap between them. Midfielders Bernd Dörnberger and Wolfgang Kraus — again, not internationals. Striker Norbert Janzon also awaits his first cap. The blond Calle Del'Haye has a handful of caps — he was outstanding for Borussia Mönchengladbach in last season's U.E.F.A. Cup Final against Eintracht Frankfurt which you may have seen on television. Dieter Hoeness, brother of general

EUROPEAN CUP

Liverpool v Bayern Munich
Oulu 1-1, 10-1
Aberdeen 1-0, 4-0
CSKA 5-1, 1-0

Bayern Munich
Olympiakos 4-2, 3-0
Ajax 5-1, 1-2
Banik Ostrava 2-0, 4-2

Real Madrid v Inter Milan
Limerick 2-1, 5-1
Honved 1-0, 2-0
Sp. Moscow 0-0, 2-0

Inter Milan
Craiova 2-0 1-1
Nantes 2-1 1-1
Red Star 1-1, 1-0

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Dynamo Tbilisi v Feyenoord
Kastoria 0-0, 2-0
Waterford 1-0, 4-0
West Ham 4-1, 0-1

Carl-Zeiss Jena v Benfica
Roma 0-3, 4-0
Valencia 3-1, 0-1
Newport 2-2, 1-0

Feyenoord
Tampere 3-1, 4-2
Hvidovre 2-1, 1-0
Slavia Sofia 2-3, 4-0

Izmir (prelim.) 0-0 4-0
Dyn. Zagreb 0-0, 2-0
Malmo 0-1, 2-0
Dusseldorf 2-2, 1-0

Norbert Janzon scores against Banik Ostrava in Bayern's Quarter-Final victory.

Beware of 'unknown' Bayern

Liverpool and Bayern Munich won the trophy five times between 1974 and 1978; only the emergence of Nottingham Forest prevented the Anfield Reds from emulating the West German's hat-trick of successes.

From Bayern's Final against Atlético Madrid in 1974 only current captain Paul Breitner remains. Breitner, then an attacking left-back, is now the midfield general, playing the best football of his career — and that must be very good indeed.

Many of the Liverpool side that lifted the European Cup in Rome for the first time are still around: Ray Clemence, Phil Neal, Ray Kennedy, Steve Heighway, Jimmy Case and Terry McDermott — plus Alan Hansen, Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness, and David Fairclough who won winners' medals in '78. So in terms of individual experience Liverpool are streets ahead.

A glance through the present Bayern team reveals a lot of new names for British fans. Breitner and European Footballer of the Year Karl-Heinz Rummenigge need no introduction, although the majority of the team is unknown here.

Players like goalkeeper Manfred Müller, successor to the great Sepp Maier, or defenders

manager Uli, has two caps.

So while Liverpool boast a side bursting with established internationals Bayern have just one in Jupp Derwall's team — Rummenigge.

This won't fool that old fox Bob Paisley. Any side that wins the Bundesliga must be outstanding, just as any team that wins the English First Division is exceptional. Unknown does not mean inferior.

Liverpool turned to Nottingham Forest for assistance in the last round when they met CSKA Sofia. Paisley may well decide to speak to Forest's latest capture, Norwegian sweeper Jan Aas (say it — Oos, please) as he was in the



Woodcock watches one of Cologne's goals against Liege enter the net.

Bayern defence just a matter of weeks ago.

To the east, Portman Road will be bulging at the seams to see if Ipswich can overcome Tony Woodcock's Cologne. Bobby Robson has never experienced defeat at home in 19 Euro ties. The run started back in September, 1973 when Real Madrid were beaten 1-0. After Town had thrashed St.-Etienne in the last round Robson was asked who he most feared for the Semi's; he gave the journalist a look that said "it's the others who should do the worrying."

Hammer

And rightly so. The Cologne players will have seen St.-Etienne hammer Hamburger SV 5-0 earlier this season — the same St.-Etienne who were put in their place by Ipswich.

A measure of the standards Ipswich have set themselves was illustrated by the fact Robson was almost disappointed after Town's 3-1 home victory against the French aces.

"We played so well at their place everyone was expecting a repeat performance," he said. "It just wasn't possible."

Cologne will present a more formidable defence under the



guidance of Rinus Michels. It may not be pretty to watch, but Michels is only concerned with the outcome, not how it's achieved.

The West Germans have climbed the Bundesliga since Michels' arrival and have several regular internationals, notably goalkeeper Tony Schumacher, defender Bernd Cullmann, midfielders Rainer Bonhof and Rene Botteron (Switzerland), not forgetting Tony Woodcock up front.



Cunningham relaxes after his recent operation.

Laurie hopes for a

By the time you read this, Laurie Cunningham should be working hard in the Real Madrid gymnasium and, with any luck, doing a bit of jogging. It seems incredible, but the blow delivered on Laurie's big toe by Betis defender Bizcocho way back on November 16th came within an ace of putting an end to Cunningham's career as a footballer — a fact brought home to SHOOT's correspondent in Spain, Graham Turner, when he accompanied Laurie through his second operation at the Clinica Tres Torres in Barcelona.

THE Real Madrid and England striker seemed cheerful enough as our correspondent and the Real president Luis de Carlos kept him

company before the operation. He'd been resigned to his fate since an initial operation by Real's club doctor, Lopez Quiles, in

UEFA CUP

Ipswich Town v 1.FC Cologne

Aris Salonika 5-1, 1-3 Akranes 4-0, 6-0
Bohemians 3-0, 0-2 Barcelona 0-1, 4-0
Widzew Lodz 5-0, 0-1 Stuttgart 1-3, 4-1
St-Etienne 4-1, 3-1 Standard Liege 0-0, 3-2

Sochaux v AZ '67

Servette 2-0, 1-2 Red Boys 6-0, 4-0
Boavista 2-2, 1-0 Levski Sofia 1-1, 5-0
Frankfurt 2-4, 2-0 Radnicki 2-2, 5-0
Grasshoppers 0-0, 2-1 Lokeren 2-0, 0-1



Woody's partner, Dieter Muller, is still a consistent scorer, although their opportunities will probably be limited at Portman Road.

English football has come under fire from certain quarters this season, but the impressive form of Ipswich and Liverpool in Europe has made the rest of the Continent wonder why there is so much internal sniping. Let's hope there's more confusion amongst the West Germans after next Wednesday.

AS Bobby Robson prepares for his 39th European tie as manager of Ipswich Town, he knows the man who hopes to plot the East Anglians' downfall is probably the master of European football.

No manager on the Continent has the pedigree of Rinus Michels. He was the man who fashioned Ajax into the most stylish club side seen since Real Madrid of the late 50's; he was the coach of the Dutch national team in 1974 which displayed a brand of total football that had soccer lovers

United States. I badly needed a holiday after my spell ended at Barcelona, for life is so intense for the coach at that club. There is not the same pressure in the United States, and for that I was glad.

"The decision I took to come back to Europe, was all to do with the way I was feeling about football.

"America was a marvellous time for me, and I liked everything about the life. But something you are feeling tells you to take a job such as this; a job with a challenge. If you are wise,

The lack of experience in management which undermined the previous boss, Karl-Heinz Hedegott's attempts to succeed, had finally been crucial.

So Michels arrived, and although Cologne soon had a disastrous exit from the Cup at the hands of Second Division opposition, things did turn for the better.

Now, the belief that success is possible is apparent in the Cologne play — and the organisation is far superior to what it was.

Organised, well coached, good

Ipswich face the Master of European Football

throughout the world purring; he steered Barcelona to the Spanish Championship and Cup, plus a place in the European Cup Semi-Final. In a nutshell, the man's track record is second to none.

It's no coincidence that since he arrived at Cologne earlier in the season the club's form has improved rapidly. Michels doesn't like to be associated with failures and even as coach of the Los Angeles Aztecs he took the Californian club to the NASL play-offs when, upon arriving, the club was almost dead and buried.

Lucrative

Michels' decision to come back to Europe from his comparatively quiet, extremely lucrative spell in American football, surprised everyone — Michels included.

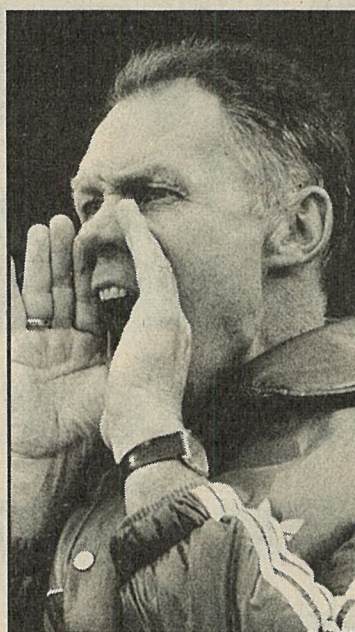
"I was ready to sign a new contract to stay in America with Los Angeles," he says. "I did a silly thing when I visited Europe for a short time... I let this (he taps his heart) rule this (a thump on the head). Never do that..."

The grin is written deep into his face.

The fact is, Michels couldn't resist the challenge Cologne offered him.

"The football here is the best in the world at this time and I wanted to prove myself in the best company," he says.

Prove himself, with his record? "Yes, it is a challenge to me to do well here," he goes on. "I enjoyed the



RINUS MICHELS

you do not touch it and just turn your back upon it. But I was not wise and became involved!"

Michels found a club littered with big name stars tearing itself apart. Bernd Schuster had had enough and went off to Barcelona; other players were rumoured to be on the verge of leaving.

technique, sound cohesion — all the qualities you would expect from a side under Rinus Michels' influence.

And if ability is to be the criterion for Cologne's future, the club must surely progress. Rainer Bonhof, Dieter Muller, Tony Woodcock, Bernd Cullmann, Swiss star Rene Botteron, Harold Konopka... every one an international.

Promising youngster Pieter Litbarski and West Germany's No. 1 goalkeeper, Tony Schumacher, add to the depth of talent within the squad.

Challenge

With players of that experience and potential and Michels to guide the ship, Cologne will provide a stiff challenge to even high-riding Ipswich.

Michels says: "The attitude of the players is the important factor. It is too early to say what we can achieve but I think there is now more readiness within the team to work as a unit rather than do things on an individual basis.

"There is no possibility of us winning the title this season, but I want us to win a place in Europe again next season. Staying in the U.E.F.A. Cup this year by winning at Barcelona was absolutely vital.

"I found a sick group of players and a sick team when I got here. Much work is still needed but you can say that I am relishing the challenge. It is a big challenge for me and the players — I like it and so should the players."

Final reckoning

December had failed to give results.

When the plaster came off, Laurie had found it difficult and painful to move the toe, and when three months of rehabilitation exercises had failed to produce any notable improvement, a second operation had been inevitable.

This time, Barcelona specialist, Dr Viladot, wielded the scalpel, cheerfully announcing that he wasn't sure exactly what problems he'd encounter when he re-opened the long scar along the side of Laurie's toe.

In the event, the operation lasted a good hour and a quarter,

with a member of the surgical team stressing that the operation was complicated.

Laurie was just coming round when he was wheeled back into Room 502, and he needed to be knocked out again in order to forget the intense pain in his heavily-banded right foot.

"I'd never seen an operation quite like this," admitted one of the Real doctors who'd observed proceedings in the theatre. "Basically, the problem was that all the working parts in Laurie's toe — muscle, cartilage and ligaments — were stuck fast together.

"That, of course, was why he's

been having so much trouble in moving the toe freely. This sort of operation is very rare, and I don't mind saying that Laurie is very lucky that Dr Viladot has both the surgical skills and the imagination to do it.

"This is the work of a really skilled specialist. In his previous condition, I don't think there can be any doubt that Laurie would ever have been fit to play football again.

"He would have been able to walk and run more or less like any normal person, but that toe would never have stood up to the demands of a professional footballer.

"Dr Viladot has cleaned up all the working parts in the toe, and re-positioned a cartilage that was preventing proper circulation.

We're all very happy with the results, and unless there's an unexpected complication like an infection, I'd say that Laurie has a 95 per cent chance of being fit for football by the middle of May."

On the following morning, Laurie was a picture of relief and confidence. The foot was giving him little trouble, and he was cheerfully signing autographs for hospital staff.

"That's that," he grinned. "It was no worse than going to the dentist. The only important thing in my life now is just to get fit and to start playing again. Four months out of action is just too long, and I can't wait to get back. Hopefully in time to meet Liverpool in the Final."

Let's hope that Laurie does just that.

NO West German club has ever put a goal past me at Anfield and I aim to preserve that record when we take on Bayern Munich in the European Cup Semi-Finals next Wednesday.

It's an old cliché that there are no easy teams at this stage, although I still reckon Bayern will be harder to overcome than either Inter Milan or Real Madrid, the other Semi-Finalists.

In the past, Liverpool have preferred to play the first leg away from Anfield, operating cautiously on foreign soil and then opening up at home with the crowd behind us.

But now, perhaps because of an unprecedented run of injuries which has prevented us from having a settled defence, we seem to be more effective playing the first game at home.

We've met the West German Champions twice before: in 1970/71 in the Quarter-Finals of the old Fairs Cup when we won 4-1 on aggregate. The following season Bayern had their revenge in the Second Round of the Cup-Winners' Cup with a 3-1 aggregate victory.

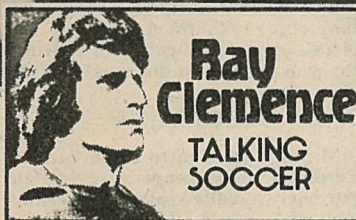
The present Bayern side is very much an unknown quantity to me. I can recall playing against only one of their players, skipper Paul Breitner.

Breitner made his name as a full-back, but I understand he now plays in midfield. I regard him as one of the most talented and intelligent



'We lost to Bayern in the Cup-Winners' Cup'

'Aiming for another German shut-out'



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

'Breitner — one of the most talented players I've seen'

players I've seen.

In midfield he can dictate play. I'm sure it's true that when Breitner plays well, Bayern play well, so we'll be doing our utmost to keep the ball away from him.

Their other great player is European Footballer of the Year Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, very dangerous in and around the penalty area, but ineffective if pushed back to the halfway line.

After an indifferent spell, where quite a few players, including myself, were below their best, we found our top form against CSKA Sofia in the last round, beating them home and away. It's asking too much to score five goals again at Anfield, but if we can put two past Bayern without reply I believe we'll stand a chance of getting the result we need in Munich. Anything less than that and we'll have an uphill battle.

As we're no longer in the running for the League Championship we MUST win the European Cup to ensure a place in that competition. We may have secured a place in the UEFA Cup by beating West Ham in this week's League Cup Final replay,



but of course the European Cup is the number one tournament.

Bob Paisley is continually stressing how important it is to finances of the club to be involved in Europe every season. Without the additional revenue, our balance sheet would be as red as our shirts.

The last round against CSKA —

conquerors of Nottingham Forest — proved to be easier than we expected.

To be honest, we never dreamt we'd win both legs — and in such style! Perhaps the Bulgarians were lacking match practice when they came to Anfield, having played just one game since their winter-break.

Despite winning 5-1, there was no complacency in our attitude when we travelled to Sofia, where CSKA had lost only twice in European competitions.

In our minds was the cautionary experience we'd suffered against Dynamo Dresden in 1978 when we went to East Germany armed with the same scoreline.

They pinned us in our own half for 45 minutes without scoring. But immediately after the break they scored twice to make the aggregate score 5-3 and we really looked in trouble.

Warm up

We were far more disciplined in Sofia, just as we'll have to be in Munich's Olympic Stadium.

Before our midweek clash with Bayern, we warm up with a League game against Stoke at Anfield.

The game takes place on Friday night because the Grand National is run at nearby Aintree on Saturday.

As we play West Ham in the League Cup Final replay only a few days beforehand, we tried to persuade Stoke to switch to Saturday night to give us a longer rest, but they refused.

Ipswich had the same experience when they asked Nottingham Forest for a similar deferment for their clubs' recent F.A. Cup Quarter-Final replay at Portman Road.

Forest lost. Stoke — be warned!

Ray Clemence

WHO WILL BE SHOOT'S MOST EXCITING PLAYERS OF THE YEAR?

SHOOT's awards for the most exciting stars of the English and Scottish Leagues are amongst the most coveted in soccer.



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Liverpool v. Bruges
1978 F.A. CUP FINAL
Ipswich v. Arsenal
1978 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Nottingham Forest v. Liverpool
1978 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Nottingham F. v. Liverpool
1977 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
Liverpool v. Borussia MGB
1977 BATTLE OF THE GIANTS
Manchester Utd v. Liverpool
1977 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Villa's Hat-trick.
1976 UEFA CUP
Liverpool v. Bruges
1976 FA CUP FINAL
Super Saints!
1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Man. City v. Newcastle
1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND
Rangers v. Hearts
1975 F.A. CUP FINAL
Hail To The Hammers!
1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Viva The Villa!
1974 F.A. CUP FINAL
Liverpool's Cup
1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Wonderful Wolves!
1973 F.A. CUP FINAL
Sunderland's Cup
1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Spurs v. Norwich
1972 F.A. CUP FINAL
Leeds v. Arsenal
1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Salute to Stoke!
1971 F.A. CUP FINAL
Arsenal v. Liverpool
1971 EURO CUP WINNERS
Chelsea v. R. Madrid
1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Spurs v. Aston Villa
1970 F.A. CUP FINAL
Chelsea's Cup
1966/70 WORLD CUP
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1968 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
Man. Utd. v. Benfica
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Also col sound 200ft/400ft
*1978 Ipswich 1, Arsenal 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1977 Man. Utd. 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1976 Southampton 1, Man. Utd. 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1974 Liverpool 3, N'castle 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0..... 100ft
*1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0..... 100ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2..... 100ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1..... 100ft
1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0..... 100ft
1968 WBA 1, Everton 0..... 200ft
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1..... 200ft
1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2..... 300ft
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1..... 200ft
1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2..... 200ft
1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1..... 200ft
*2 Spurs 3, Burnley 1..... 100ft
*1961 Spurs, Leicester..... 100ft
Also col sound 100ft.
1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0..... 100ft
1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1..... 100ft
1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd. 0..... 100ft
1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd. 1..... 100ft
1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3..... 100ft
1954 to 1956 also available..... 100ft

EUROPEAN CUP

*1978 Liverpool 1, Bruges 0..... 200ft/400ft
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*1977 L'pool 3 Borussia MGB 1..... 200ft/300ft
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also 400ft b/w and colour sound
*1975 B. Munich 2, Leeds 0..... 150ft
1972 Ajax 2, Inter Milan 0..... 200ft
1971 Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0..... 100ft
1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1..... 200ft
1968 Man. Utd. 4, Benfica 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also b/w sound 200ft
1968 Man. Utd. 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final)..... 200ft
1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1..... 200ft/400ft
1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1..... 200ft
1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1..... 200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3..... 200ft/400ft

WORLD CUP

*1978 Argentina 3, Holland 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Scotland 3, Holland 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Argentina 2, France 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Holland 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Holland 2 West Germany 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Brazil 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Best Goals of tournament..... 200ft/400ft
*1978 Scotland v Wales/Czecho..... 400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1974 W. Germany 2, Holland 1..... 200ft
*1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2..... 200ft
*1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0..... 200ft
*1974 Holland 4, Argentina 0..... 200ft

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*1974 Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1..... 200ft
1974 films also available in 400ft b/w and colour silent; 400ft b/w and colour sound.
*1970 Italy 4, W. Germany 3 col silent..... 200ft
*1970 England 2, W. Germany 3 col silent 200ft
*1966 England 4, W. Germany 2..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft; also 400ft b/w silent
1966 England 2, Portugal 1..... 200ft
1966 Hungary 3, Brazil 1..... 200ft
1966 Korea 3, Portugal 5..... 200ft

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

*1980 Wolves 1, Nott'ham F. 1..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1979 Nott'ham F. 3, Southampton 2..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1978 Nott'ham F. 1, Liverpool 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1977 Aston V. 3, Everton 2..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1..... 200ft
*1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0..... 100ft
*1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1..... 100ft

INTERNATIONALS

*1977 Scotland 2, England 1..... 400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1977 England 2, Italy 0..... 200ft
Also 200ft col sound
*1977 England 0, Holland 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also 200ft/400ft col sound
1976 Scotland 2, England 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also 400ft b/w sound
1975 England 5, Scotland 1..... 200ft
Also 400ft b/w sound
1969 England 4, Scotland 1..... 200ft
1967 Scotland 3, England 2..... 400ft
1953 Hungary 6, England 3..... 100ft
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1976 Rangers 3, Hearts 1..... 200ft/400ft
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

AMAZING AYR



he thoroughly deserved it after all he had done for me."

Ayr are now in an amazing new era in the capable hands of Willie McLean (left), brother of Dundee United boss Jim and Rangers player Tommy.

Promotion is his first priority with the club. He is looking for his side going up and proving it is good enough to compete consistently with the likes of Celtic, Rangers, Dundee United, Aberdeen and others.

Ayr have some of the brightest youngsters in the country. As well as the impressive Nicol, there is outstanding defender Ian McAllister and swift raider Bobby Connor.

McLean paid out modest fees for Eric Morris and Davie Armour from Rangers and they, too, are helping make Ayr one of the most attractive, entertaining outfits in the First Division.

McLean's side are nicknamed 'The Honest Men'. When they say they think promotion is just around the corner and there are some exciting times ahead, no-one is arguing!

Bobby Connor (white shirt) is one of the most valuable assets at Somerset Park.

TWO decades ago Ayr United were a club in rapid decline.

Somerset Park was run-down, the players' strips were patched up, the boots had seen better days. The black clouds were gathering... the future was bleak.

But what a change there is around Ayr these days. Manager Willie McLean could even afford to turn down a reported bid of around £150,000 from Rangers for teenage defender Steve Nicol.

In the dark days a fee like that could have bought every player on the club's books — and probably the ground as well!

The transformation actually started when a bright and breezy character agreed to take over the reins. His name? The one and only Ally MacLeod!

"Yes, I really changed things at Ayr United," says Ally without any attempt at false modesty. "They needed direction and I gave it to them."

Indeed, MacLeod took the ailing team and gave it a quite remarkable kiss of life.

Defeat for Ayr in the Semi-Finals of the League Cup by Dundee (dark strip).

HONOURS

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS:

1912, 1913, 1928, 1937, 1959, 1966. Runners-up: 1911, 1956, 1969.

RECORD LAST SEASON:

First Division — Third. Scottish Cup — Fourth Round. League Cup — Third Round.

The cobwebs and the dark clouds were blown away, and a fresh, exciting attitude was adopted. Ayr soon battled out of the old Second Division into the First Division, where they swiftly earned the respect of the big boys.

MacLeod's Marauders made their mark, and no club relished the prospect of a visit to Somerset Park following a series of increasingly frequent home victories for Ayr.

Celtic striker Johnny Doyle, the former Ayr winger, recalls: "Those were great days for the club. When

Ally MacLeod brought me into the team he told me to enjoy myself, play football with a smile on my face.

"Celtic and Rangers both lost there a few times. I remember one game where we beat the Ibrox men 3-0. Honestly, it could have been six or seven that afternoon.

"I was proud when I won a full international cap for Scotland while with Ayr United. I gave that strip to Ally MacLeod... I thought



AYR UNITED

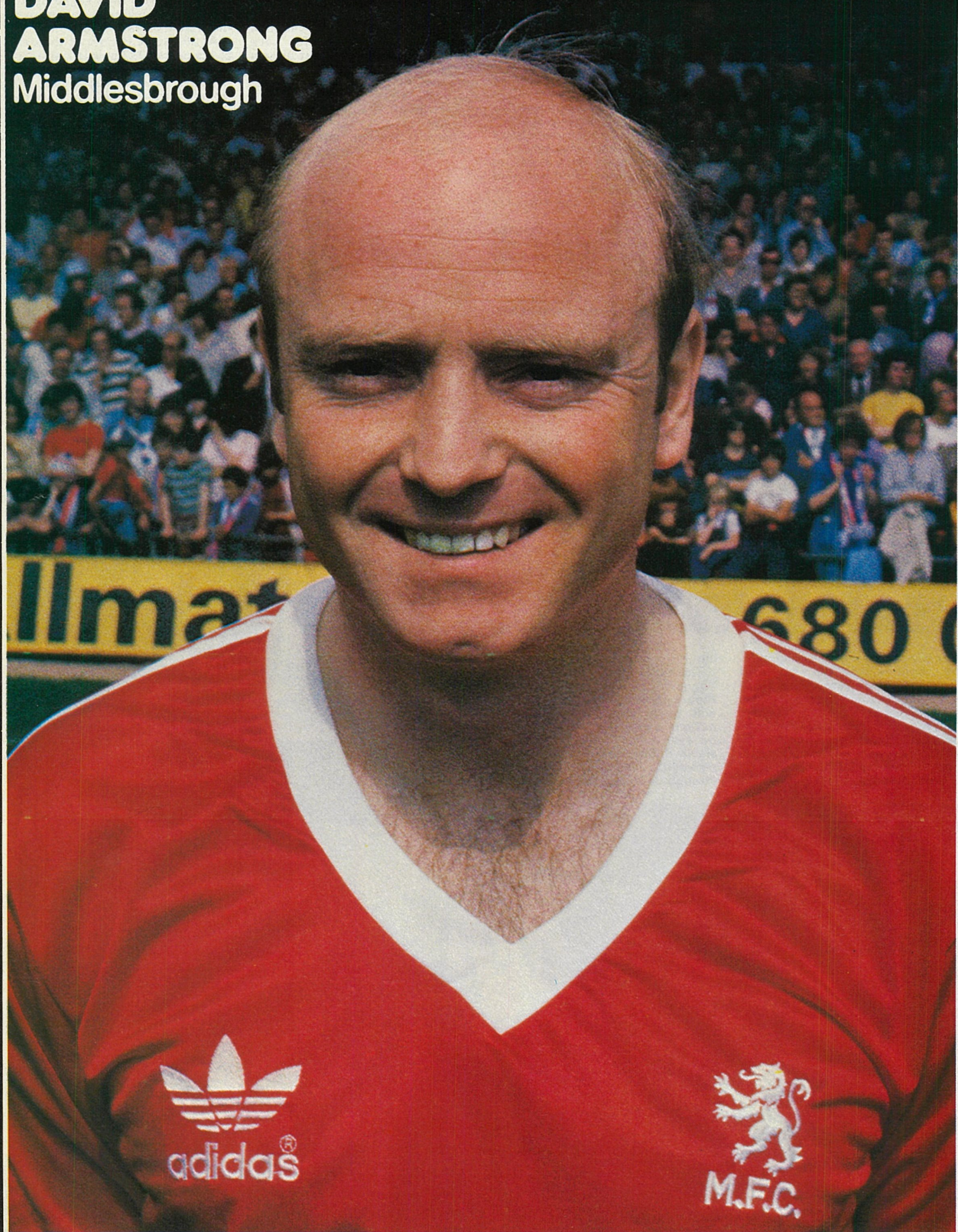


BACK ROW (left to right): Willie McCullough (reserve trainer), Mark Shank, Billy McColl, Steve Nicol, David Armour, Stuart Rennie, Ian McAllister, Billy Hendry, Gerry Christie, Eric Morris, Billy Smith (youth coach). FRONT ROW: Willie

McLean (manager), Jim McSherry, Robert Connor, Jim Fleeting, Ian Cashmore, Ally Love, Derek Frye, George Caldwell (asst. manager)

SHOOT!

**DAVID
ARMSTRONG**
Middlesbrough



SHOOT!

IVAN Golac fears he has become the man in the cold in Yugoslavia's plans for the 1982 World Cup Finals. Southampton full-back Golac believes he is currently playing the best football of his career — but that fact has been greeted with a deafening silence from Belgrade.

Yugoslav team manager Miljan Miljanic hasn't picked Golac for any of his squads in Yugoslavia's qualifying campaign for the '82 Finals. And Golac is worried that there's an unofficial 'cold war' going on to freeze him out of World Cup action.

Golac says: "My form this season has been splendid — it is no boast to say so. A player knows when he is playing well, and my form is as good now as it has been at any time in my career."

"I don't think Yugoslavia have a better full-back to play in the national team, but I do not get called up. Nicki Jovanovic was called up from Manchester United to

100 League game mark in his Southampton career, believes politics are behind his exclusion from Miljanic's plans. "I can only assume that is the reason," he says. "It is very hard if a manager doesn't want you. You know you should be playing for your country, but there is nothing you can do about it."

"If Miljanic is honest, I have to play, but, of course, it is up to him."

Golac certainly received plenty of support for his views when he spent a few days back home in Yugoslavia recently. And he found general pessimism at the immediate future of the Yugoslav national side.

"Yugoslavia should get through from Group Five, but Italy will definitely go to the Finals, and the other place could still be lost to Greece. I don't think the Yugoslav side is a good one at the moment and many people believe that Miljanic should make changes. A much better side is available to

I am not sure what the reasons are for certain players being left out. I am not the only one in this category."

Traditional feuding between Yugoslav factions could have much to do with it. What angers Slavs may please Partizans. What pleases Partizans may incense Serbo-Croats.

Back in 1976, Golac was one of several players to suffer from Miljanic's decision not to select any players from Parizan Belgrade.

Yet Partizan were the strongest side in Yugoslavia that year and went on to win the League Champions title, making a nonsense of the national team selections.

At 30, Golac is now at the peak of his career. Miljanic is rumoured to be on the verge of quitting the national side in Yugoslavia, but Golac cannot afford to wait too long.

In the meantime, he continues to put all his efforts into club life at Southampton, despite continuing to hope he can add to the four international caps he won for Yugoslavia during his earlier days with Partizan.

"I am concentrating all my attentions on Southampton," he says. "It is through working 100 per cent on my game, being very fit and training hard, that I have enjoyed my football so much this season. It is no coincidence that this has been my best season for the club."

'Yugoslavia won't pick me' complains Golac

play in a recent World Cup qualifying game — and the people of Yugoslavia were astonished. He is not even a regular first team player at Manchester.

"You can't even begin to compare us. I think I deserve to play for Yugoslavia, and would play better than any full-back at the moment."

Golac, who has just passed the

him."

The next World Cup qualifier the Yugoslavs face is on May 2, when they entertain the Greeks. That will be a vital game for both nations and Golac warns: "It will be even more difficult for Yugoslavia if the best players are not selected. There are so many strange decisions being taken that



Yugoslavia (white) hope to qualify for the World Cup Finals from Group Five, headed by Italy (dark strip).



AS the season moves into its critical final stages, nowhere is the competition for honours more fierce than at the top of the Third Division.

And no one is relishing the heat of the battle more than Huddersfield Town manager Mick Buxton.

Last season The Terriers came up from Division Four as Champions. Now they've moved into top gear in their drive for promotion for the second successive season. And Mick confidently predicts: "If it's down to the survival of the fittest, then I'd back us against anyone."

"All the rain over the past few weeks means that pitches are going to get heavier. That's where our stamina should tell. My lads are conditioned to hard running."

"We don't fool around in training here. You ask them. If you're going to do that, then the players might as well stay at home."

"We train as hard on Fridays as we do on Mondays. That doesn't mean we neglect the skills of the game, of course. But there's not much point in putting on a five-star footballing performance for 45

total of 101 League goals is enough to frighten anyone, I suppose. Whatever it was, they seemed reluctant to put us under any real pressure."

"Naturally I decided to take full advantage of the situation. I set aside our slightly cautious approach of the early months and reverted back to the adventurous style of last term."

And clearly the danger signals began to flash for the other clubs at the top of the Division as Town moved menacingly after them.

Surge

Now they are in the ideal position to launch their final surge.

"Obviously we'd be delighted to be occupying any of the top three places at the end of the season," said Mick. "But having gone up as Champions before, we'd love to do the same again."

"Charlton looked to be running away with the title at one stage, but gradually the gap has closed. It's somewhat similar to what happened last season. Then Walsall were way out in front, and looked



Opponents afraid of Huddersfield



Huddersfield boss Mick Buxton (inset) has encouraged players such as Steve Kindon to go for goals.

minutes, then running out of steam.

"Whatever we've got to give, we give it over the full 90 minutes."

Town came into the Third Division not really knowing what to expect. But having got to grips with life at a higher level they soon realised that, far from having to worry about other teams, it was their opponents who were obviously worried about them.

"As the season wore on, we became more aware that teams appeared to be afraid of us," said Buxton. "Maybe it was our goal-scoring reputation from last season which inhibited them. Our

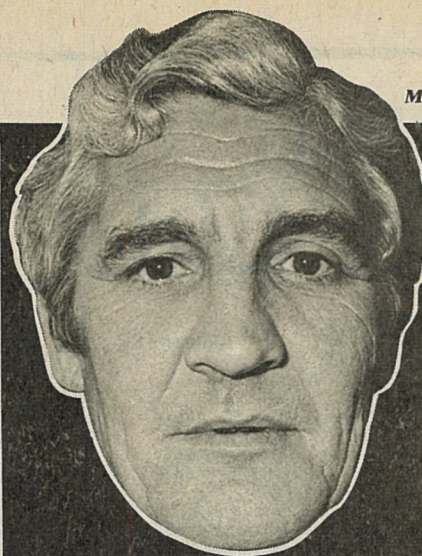
odds-on Champions. But we kept plugging away... as I know we'll do again this time. And eventually we caught, and passed them, to finish two points clear."

Mr Buxton certainly isn't dismissing the claims of the other front runners.

"Rotherham, Barnsley, Portsmouth, Chesterfield and Burnley, as well as Charlton and ourselves, are all in there battling. And at this stage, any three from those seven could fill the promotion places," he admits.

"But I'm not about to start worrying too much about other teams. My number one priority is my own team. If we do our stuff, then what the others do is irrelevant."

"We are in full control of our future. If we don't go up, it will be no-one's fault but our own."



Manager Ian Greaves.

Oxford players form an escape committee!

IAN Greaves has burst into the sleeping city of Oxford with all the force of a tornado.

"I didn't care where it was, I just knew I had to get back into the game," he says. "The time was right. I needed to work, and football is like a drug. I can't live without the pressures and aggravations of day to day management — not after 13 years."

Greaves, who guided Huddersfield and Bolton into the First Division and was sacked by the Burnenden Park club in January, 1980, feels no embarrassment at joining tiny Oxford.

"Over the years, I've been offered some of the top jobs in the country and I don't say that for effect, because my ego went out of the window a long time ago. I don't want publicity for myself, but I think it's good for Oxford United."

"When I came here they were in a hell of a state. They'd only won one home game and were dead and buried. I'm sure everyone in the town — even the players themselves — believed they were relegated."

"The team were putting themselves under extra pressure because they thought they were already down."

'Stuck in'

"I said, 'What's up with you? Come on let's get stuck in. Stop worrying about the results and get on with the game.'"

"Since then they've done marvellously. I've got them going and they've picked up more than a point a match. They're working hard and I can't ask for more."

Greaves livened the place up in his own inimitable fashion. "After working in the North all my life I found them very quiet," he said. "They only used to speak once a fortnight!"

"So I have a bit of a mickey-taking session. I think players should always have a laugh with the manager. It's a way of giving encouragement as long as it's a two-sided affair, with respect on both sides."

"I don't overdo it and I don't insult people. But it's my style, and

I've always been like that. I can't change."

"People said to me at Huddersfield and Bolton that I got too close to the players. If that's wrong, then I've made the same mistake again."

"I want players to play for me because they respect me. And to get that, you've got to give it."

"I think the players were surprised when I breezed in. They were wary of me at the beginning because I'd been at higher Divisions. They probably thought I might expect too much from them."

Repartee

"It was up to me to adjust and assess the ability of the players and plan accordingly. I've done that and I think we've a great repartee going now."

"The basic problem is we're a young side. I'm having to force three or four teenagers into the team. They're good, but they need an injection of professionalism."

"I signed veteran Malcolm Page from Birmingham. I don't expect 46 games a season from him, but with him sharing and helping the kids along, then I've got a choice."

"The age balance was all wrong, and that's something I'm beginning to put right."

"I've polished up my coaching badge and we've worked hard on tactics. The players return in the afternoon, working on certain aspects and improving them."

"One of the lads said that they were thinking of getting an escape committee together to tunnel their way out! I thought that was brilliant. They're moaning, but they're getting on with it."

"I believe we're in with a great chance of avoiding relegation. It looks dicey and the players are still not convinced."

"I'm sure we can stay up, but then I've got to take the positive line, I can't afford to be negative."

"To stay up is vital, but if relegation does come it won't be the end of the world."

"I have enjoyed my time so far at the Manor Ground, and I hope to go on doing so. The team have already shown a marked improvement, and I just hope that we can avoid the drop and take things on from there."

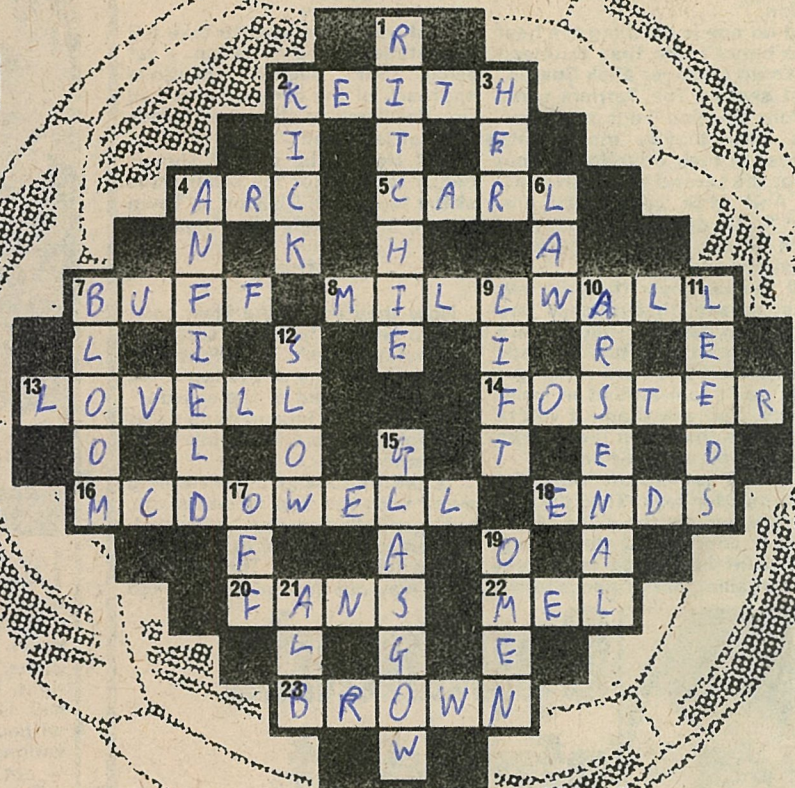
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

- (2) — Burkinshaw, Spurs manager. (5)
 (4) Reverse three letters from Craven Cottage for a curve. (3)
 (5) — Harris, Leeds United's Welsh international striker. (4)
 (7) Dull-yellow colour. (4)
 (8) The Third Division "Lions" from The Den. (8)
 (13) Steve —, Crystal Palace midfield player. (6)
 (14) Steve —, Brighton defender. (6)
 (16) John —, Norwich City defender. (8)
 (18) The winner of the toss-up get the choice of these. (4)
 (20) Ardent supporters. (4)
 (22) — Sutton; Wrexham midfielder player. (3)
 (23) Ally of West Brom or Alan of Sunderland. (5)

DOWN:—

- (1) Andy —, Brighton striker. (7)
 (2 & 17) Start of the game. (4)
 (3) Steve S—wood, Watford 'keeper. (3)
 (4) Home of the European Champions 1976/77 and 1977/78. (7)
 (6) Denis — was the first player to be transferred for a fee exceeding £100,000. (3)
 (7) —field Road, home of Blackpool. (5)
 (9) Elevate. (4)
 (10) F.A. Cup winners, 1978/79. (7)
 (11) — United. "The Peacocks" of the English First Division. (5)
 (12) Lacking pace. (4)
 (15) Many players hail from this famous Scottish city. (7)
 (17) See 2 Down. (3)
 (19) Significant sign. (4)
 (21) —ion Rovers play at Clifton Hill Park. (3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 38

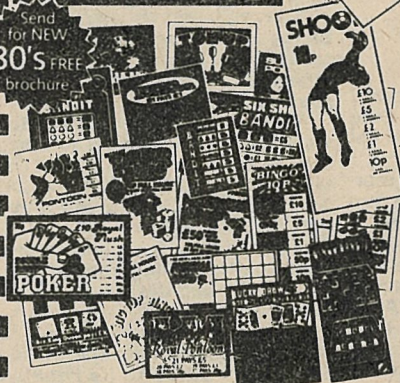
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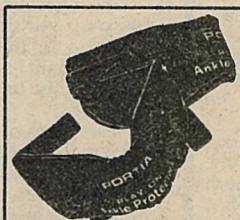
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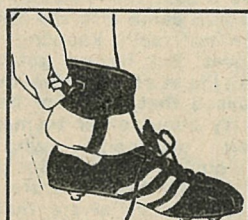
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THE man with the toughest task in football is Dario Gradi, manager of Crystal Palace. No club has gone through the upheaval Palace has in recent months and I hope Dario succeeds. Why? Because he helped me tremendously as a teenager.

Dario was in charge of the Chelsea youth team in those days. He and Ken Shellito gave me my chance and encouraged me as much as they could. Dario liked me to get people playing ... he thought my style was suited to running the midfield and his advice gave me a good base to work from.

He's had his ups and downs with Wimbledon, but he's an honest person and my best wishes are with him at Selhurst Park.

One of his problems is to make the Palace players believe in themselves. I've been through their experience with Chelsea a couple of years ago and morale is very low at such a time.

You know the situation is hopeless and all you can do is to try and salvage your pride. Palace come to Old Trafford this Saturday and while it won't be an easy game for us, I know how they'll be feeling.

I'm surprised they're heading for the Second Division. I don't think many people expected it after their relative success last season.

Dario is doing the right thing by preparing his team for next season now. It's no use waiting until pre-season — the time to get the side

organised is today, not tomorrow.

I remember when Chelsea were being relegated and Danny Blanchflower threw a few of the kids in at the deep end. Such action can work in two ways: it can be a disaster, or it can help the youngsters get a lot of experience in a short time.

With Chelsea it worked positively and they're now reaping the benefit. There are several youngsters in the team pushing for promotion who were battling against relegation when I was there. They're better players for all this.

One transfer that I'm sure will work for Dario is Tommy Langley. I enjoyed playing in the same Chelsea team as Tommy; we had a good understanding and I knew that even if my pass was off target, Tommy would run through a brick wall to make it look a good one. There are few players around with as much stamina as Tommy. I wish I

very depressed at the way things have gone, but no one at the club has any doubts he'll come good.

He doesn't say that much, but little things reveal the strain. We were playing snooker the other day and he missed a sitter of a red just over the centre pocket. "Typical of the way my luck is," he said half jokingly.

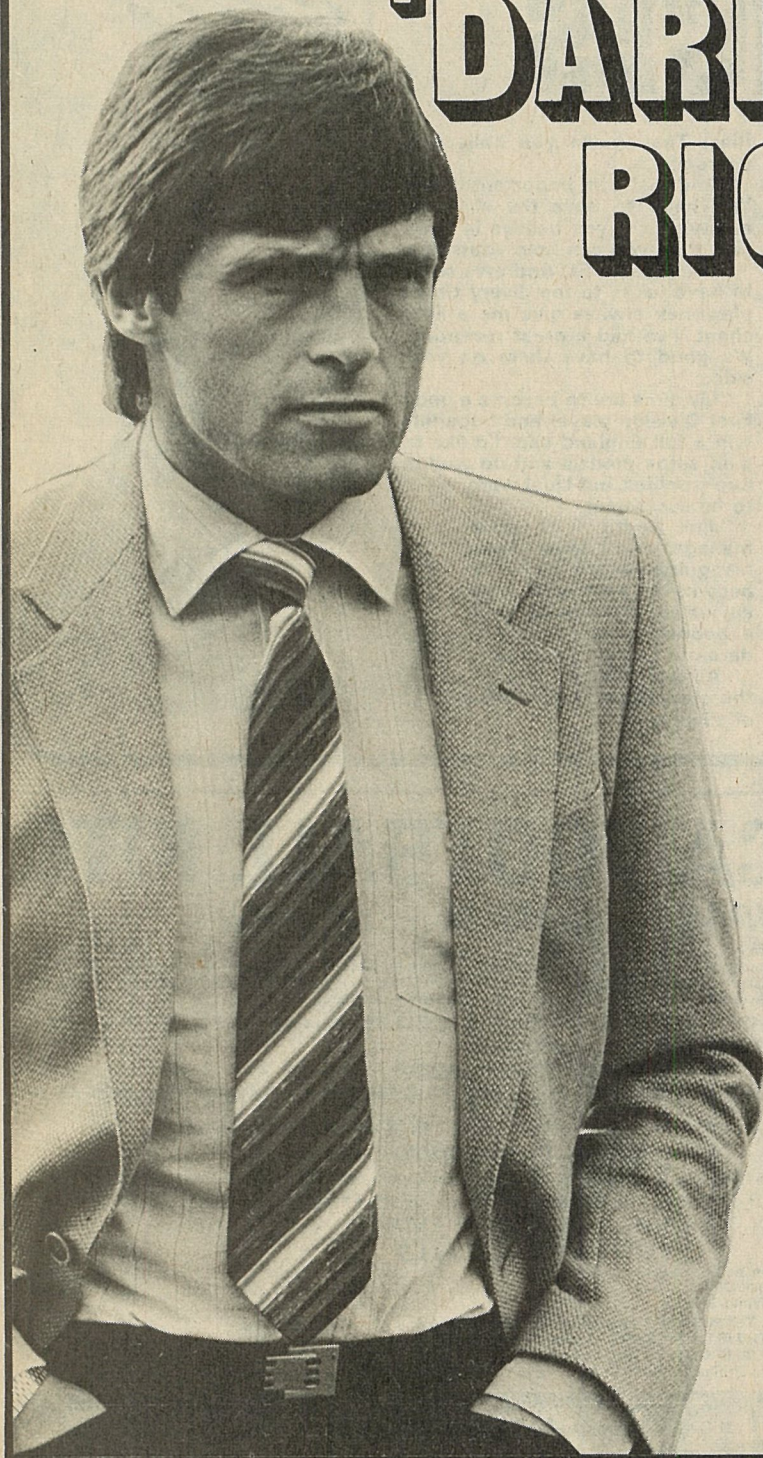
I try to gee him up on the park and I hope I've helped Garry in some small way. He's getting into good positions, but the breaks haven't come his way.

Join me again in a fortnight.



Ray Wilkins

'DARIO ON THE RIGHT LINES'



had half the energy he wastes!

Norwich are another team at the bottom who have spent in order to beat the drop. I was amazed so few clubs went for Martin O'Neill. We were talking about this at Old Trafford — Martin is a player of real class. Steve Walford will also do a good job for them, just as he did for Arsenal when he had the chance.

A couple of new faces can work wonders. Look how Manchester City's fortunes changed when John Bond bought Gerry Gow, Tommy Hutchison and Bobby McDonald.

Brighton could do with some new blood, but even so I didn't expect them to have quite as many problems.

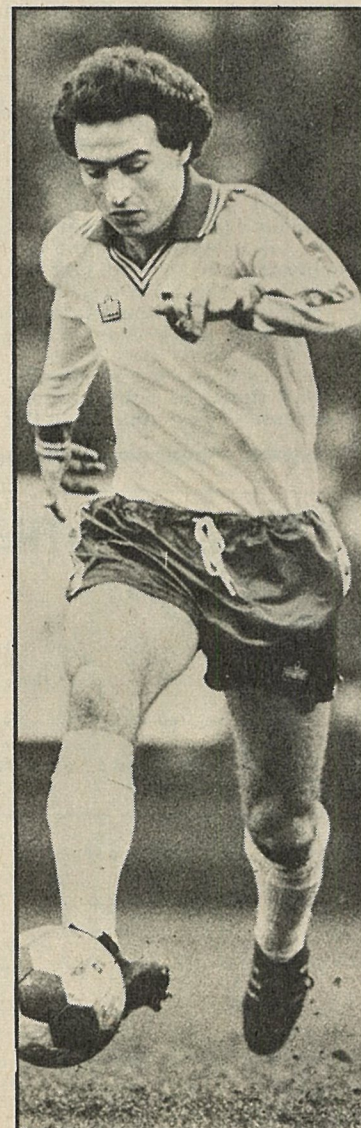
Impressed

Leicester's poor results were probably due to inexperience. They came into Division One with a very young team, although they've picked up lately. They deserved to beat us and I was impressed with their spirit and the backing their fans give them.

From United's point of view, our aim is simply to give our supporters what they deserve. We want to get ourselves back to respectability because, despite what some of the papers have said, the crowd has been marvellous.

We've picked up in the past month or so and we've been unfortunate not to win when we've drawn.

I hope Garry Birtles' luck changes. I feel sorry for Garry, who must be



LEFT: "Dario Gradi is working for the future at Crystal Palace."

RIGHT: "Martin O'Neill is a player of real class. We were surprised only Norwich were after him."

IAN Handysides, Birmingham City's 18-year-old midfield starlet, has burst on to the First Division scene in spectacular fashion. Just three days after making his first appearance in the England youth team against Northern Ireland at Walsall, "The Man from Jarrow" was chosen to make his full League debut against Liverpool at Anfield.

And it was Handysides who pro-

vided the cross for Tony Evans to net for Birmingham's first goal in a creditable 2-2 draw.

But perhaps the greatest accolade came from manager Jim Smith, who openly declared that young Ian Handysides has all the potential to become the new Trevor Francis.

"It's great to be compared with someone like that," says Ian, "especially by your own manager. It gives you a boost, but really I've got to prove myself first. Maybe Jim Smith is thinking about the future. I'd like to be as good as Trevor, but I've just got to wait and see."

Influence

Handysides, born in Jarrow but who has lived most of his life in Hebburn, was chased by a cluster of clubs, yet it was the influence of ace talent spotter Don Dorman which lured Ian to Birmingham.

"He came and watched me in a County game in the North East and asked me to sign for Blues. I'd had a good look at all the interested clubs, but Birmingham seemed to have the edge.

"I'd only been here six months before I signed as a professional. This season I've graduated to the

first team, so everything seems to be going well for me."

Handysides was at the England training camp when he read in the papers that striker Steve Lynex had been sold to Leicester and that he might get his chance at Liverpool.

"I didn't think anything about it," he says. "I turned up for training on the Friday morning and the manager took me into his office.

He told me he was going to play me, and to just go out there and do my own thing.

"I really enjoyed it. There's no better place than Anfield to make your debut. The crowd and the atmosphere was brilliant. It was certainly a big jump from reserve and youth team football. The spectators seem to be yelling at you from everywhere.

"It is pretty scary, because there's so much tension. I've never suffered from nerves before, but I did at Anfield. Once you get the ball, then you soon settle down. The only trouble was, I didn't have my first touch until 20 minutes had gone!"

Handysides is currently playing wide on the left of Birmingham's midfield, breaking forward down the wing.

"Central midfield is my best position," he says. "The main part of my game is running with the ball, taking players on and shooting. The manager has told me that he's going to move me into the centre

of things at some future date, and I think that will help my development.

"I like to be involved all the time. Being on the left means that I only take part in the action now and again, and you can't express yourself to the full.

"Playing with Colin Todd and Archie Gemmill is great. They encourage you and they're always trying to bring out the best qual-

ities. They make you believe in yourself.

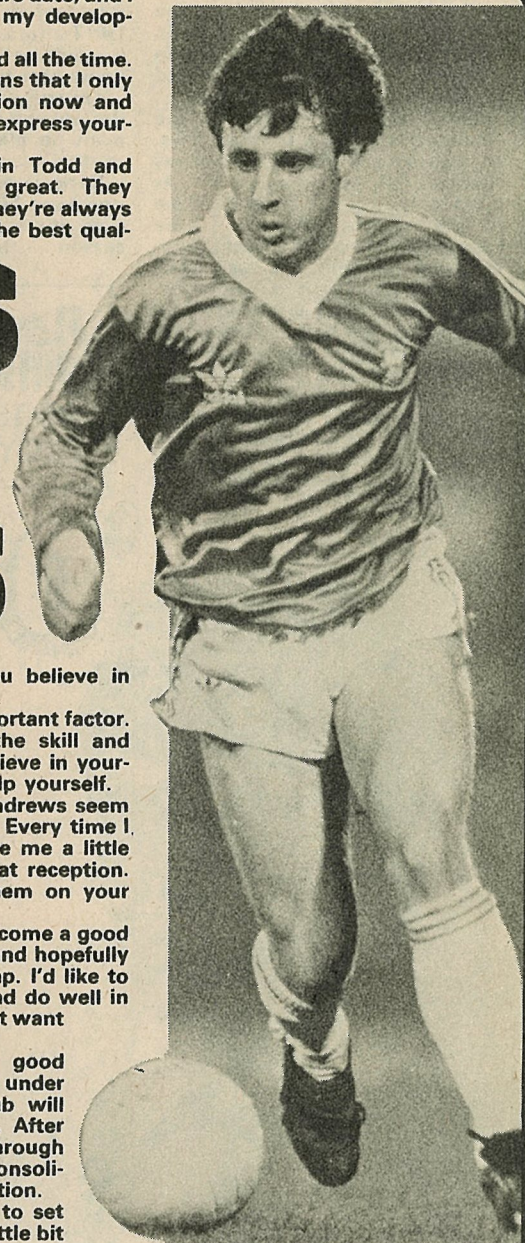
"And that's an important factor. You have to have the skill and ability, but if you believe in yourself, then you can help yourself.

"The fans at St. Andrews seem to have taken to me. Every time I play they always give me a little chant. I've had a great reception. It's good to have them on your side.

"My aims are to become a good First Division player and hopefully win a full England cap. I'd like to gain some medals and do well in Cup trophies, but I just want to be successful.

"Jim Smith is a good manager and I think under his guidance the club will become a great one. After all, we've just come through a poorish spell to consolidate our League position.

"All we need now to set the place alight is a little bit of silverware."



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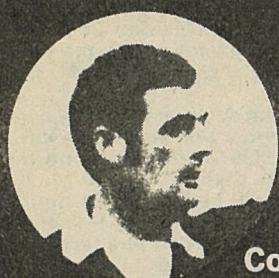
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1

After the start of the second-half you realise the goalkeeper was an outfield player in the first-half. Should you (a) send the player off, (b) caution the player or (c) take no action?



2

A 'keeper moves off his line before a penalty-kick, which is subsequently fired over the bar. Should you have the penalty retaken?



3

A player slips and accidentally handles the ball as he falls. Should you penalise him?



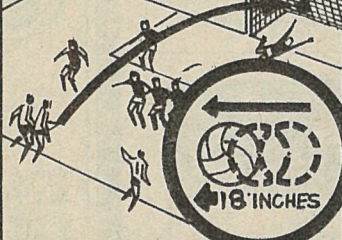
4

You notice a goalkeeper has the same colour jersey as the opposing team. Should you ensure the 'keeper changes his jersey?



5

Taking a free-kick an attacker taps the ball 18 inches to a team-mate who scores. Should you allow the goal?



ANSWERS

1. Caution the player (b). 2. Yes. There are different views he is there to act as a goal judge. 3. No. 4. Yes. 5. No. His job is to tell me if the goalkeeper moves off the goal-line, also my linesman to stand on the goal-line a few yards from the flag. and involvement should be on penalties. You will find that I allow

Transfer rumours don't worry Cooke



ROBBIE Cooke is one of football's success stories this season. Plucked from the rejection ranks of Southern League football, he is blasting his way towards 30 goals in his first full season as a League player — and the rocketing progress of Peterborough's 23-year-old striker is being monitored by a cluster of First Division clubs.

"All the speculative headlines don't worry me," he says. "If it happens, it happens. Until then, I have to get on with the job of scoring the goals that Peterborough need to stand a chance of promotion.

"As far as the rumours are concerned, I have been through all that before. During the two seasons I had with Grantham in the Southern League, there was story after story about this club and that club coming in to sign me. But it never happened... so I've learned not to pitch my hopes too high.

"With money being as it is at Peterborough, I expect that they would let me go for the right offer. Certainly from my own point of view, I want to play in the First Division, but the way to get there is scoring consistently for the club that pays my wages!"

Cooke, one of the most talked about young strikers in the game, has a lesson to pass on to all the young players who will be discarded at the end of this season: take disappointment on the chin and fight back.

"I had a dozen or so games for Mansfield when the club was being relegated from the Second Division and it was a struggle for everyone," he recalls. "At the end of it, manager Billy Bingham called me in and said that my bad points outweighed my good points. In short, I was being released.

"It was hard to take at the time, but Grantham gave me the boost that my confidence needed. My first season there, we won promotion from the First Division North and, after two seasons, I had scored 83 goals.

"At that point, Peter Morris offered me the chance to play for Peterborough. He had been at Mansfield when I was in their side as a 19-year-old and said 'I think that you have the confidence now to score goals in the League. Why not give it another try?'

"I did — and everything has taken off from there."

'Alert'

Peterborough manager Morris says: "Robbie has every asset. He is quick, very alert and goes looking for goals all the time." His star discovery adds: "All the time, Peter is telling me 'I'll make a better player of you. Keep improving' — and I think I am."

But Peterborough's fine season of a promotion challenge, plus that F.A. Cup campaign when they beat Chesterfield and Notts County before losing narrowly to Manchester City, is not just about Cooke. The other young players discovered by Morris are finding their feet fast.

Trevor Slack, an 18-year-old centre-half, is a brilliant prospect; in midfield Micky Gynn and Trevor Quow are demanding and driving players of far greater experience.

There is little doubt that Peterborough, under the imaginative managership of Morris, have a fluent, creative style that can match the best.

Their F.A. Cup run produced some vital revenue, but it is promotion which matters most.

BRYAN Robson joined Carlisle United from Sunderland on a rescue mission — he has between now and May to help the Cumbrian club collect sufficient points to stave-off relegation.

And the axiom "Goalscorer — will travel" certainly applies to this famous striker, who first made his name with Newcastle United then had two spells with West Ham and two at Sunderland.

But this latest move is one with a difference for Bryan. For on this occasion he is joining a club as a player-coach, so Carlisle should reap the benefit of the experience he has gathered during his goal-studded career.

Boost

Not surprisingly, goals were heavily in Robson's mind when he started this season at Sunderland. After years of finding the net in the North-East and London he had notched over 200 goals — and this season he was aiming to boost his total to 250.

Says Bryan: "Naturally, I'm always out to increase my goals tally, though at Carlisle my chief priority is to work for the benefit of the team. So my ambition is to strike up a working understanding with my team-mates, and hopefully, back this up with some goals."

"When I signed for Carlisle, I had 233, which means I certainly have my work cut out to reach that milestone of 250 goals this season!"

"I'll be playing up front with Peter Beardsley, who is just 20, and Gordon Staniforth.

Robson's rescue mission

"Peter is very fast over ten yards and Gordon is also quick. With the movement these two will provide we should be pretty mobile in attack — and if I can help both of them to score a few goals I'll be delighted."

Robson is also happy that he played a part in Sunderland's return to the top flight.

"I was glad that we achieved promotion to the First Division during my second spell at Roker, and in

some ways I am still very sad at leaving Sunderland.

"But I'm very happy with life. I've come to a club with a great set-up — they have got their own sports hall and training pitches which are just one minute's walk from the ground.

"And I'm linking up again with Bob Stokoe, the Carlisle manager, who was boss at Sunderland when

we went up into Division One. I'm grateful to him for giving me the chance to get involved in coaching."

It was that decision to undertake coaching work which made Bryan think extra hard before throwing in his lot with Carlisle.

He says: "I had three or four sleepless nights before I finally signed on the dotted line for Bob Stokoe — that's how important it was to make the correct judgment."

'New Contract'

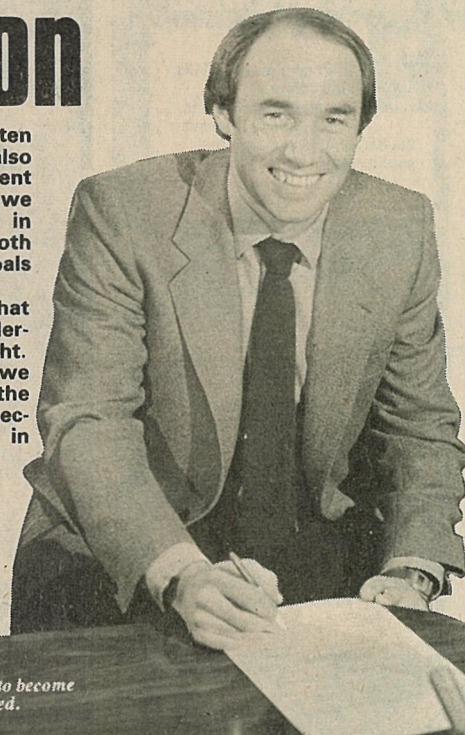
"I had to get it right because of the coaching, and it was the longest time I've spent negotiating a new contract."

"But once I had taken the step I felt great. This is a very exciting stage of my career, and I've every confidence I can make out as player-coach."

"I'm aware that I'm regarded as being a quiet sort of person, but I'm intent on showing I'm not as shy as some people think. Not that I'll be attempting to take Carlisle by storm — I want to settle in quietly, and concentrate on adjusting to Third Division football."

Robson's transfer to Carlisle was not a "free" as reported, and the small fee involved is understood to be in the region of £7,000, money which should prove to be wisely spent by the Border club.

And Bryan, who will continue to live in his present home at Hexham, sums up: "There is plenty of ability here at Carlisle — what is needed is confidence."



A happy Bryan Robson signs to become player-coach at Carlisle United.

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This week's Star Letter came from K. Overy of Gorleston who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

A CIVILISED MAN'S GAME

★ I was amazed to hear what Keith Burkinshaw had to say after Tottenham's match at Ipswich.

He condoned all the crunching tackles, crude body checks and downright dangerous play by his team by saying "it's a man's game".

Of course it's a man's game, but most of all it's supposed to be entertainment.

Supporters pay their hard-earned money to watch all the skills good footballing sides produce. They don't want to see the game continually interrupted by free-kicks and players receiving treatment.

Mr Burkinshaw naturally would never admit it, but he knows deep inside that some of the tackles by his players overstepped the bounds of "manliness".

There is no need for a team such as Spurs, full of talented players, to resort to these caveman tactics.

I thought Ipswich Town showed amazing self-restraint in not retaliating after some of the tackles they received.

In the end what did Spurs prove? As Bobby Robson commented after the game: "The 3-0 result said it all."

It's a man's game alright, but civilised man not neanderthal man.

● Spurs' tactics surprised me. They're not that sort of team and I hope it was a one-off occasion.

Rich failure

ALAN BALL was a dismal failure as a manager, but when he left Blackpool after ten months, leaving them on the brink of relegation, he collected the usual golden handshake.

Is there any other business that would conduct its affairs in this manner?

No wonder football clubs are in such a poor financial position.

R. JOHNSON, COSELEY.

● Blackpool appointed Ball and gave him a three-year contract. If they wanted to terminate this then they were entitled to give him a pay-off... as in any other business.

Pen pals

I AM a 16-year-old Finnish boy. I support West Bromwich Albion and in particular Bryan Robson. I would like WBA supporters to write to me. My hobbies are football, ice-hockey and tennis.

JUHA MAKELA, KYARINTIE 3 A 12, 26130 RAUMA 13, FINLAND.

I AM an 18-year-old Liverpool fan who supports F.C. Twente in Holland, and would like to correspond with a Liverpool supporter of my age in the Merseyside area.

ROBERT KIEWIK, MARIASTRAAT 16, 7574 ZM OLDENZAAL, HOLLAND.



Where's the revival?

YOU recently had an article entitled 'The Everton Revival'. I have yet to see this long-awaited rise to the top of the table.

I have supported Everton for a long time and am amazed that the Everton board have put up with incompetent Gordon Lee (above).

It's all very well to say that they got into Europe, finished third and fourth in the League and had some good Cup runs, but I'm still waiting to see some silverware in the Goodison trophy room.

It is blatantly obvious to most supporters that the blend which Mr Lee is forever seeking is never going to come to fruition.

You probably think that I would be the first to pat the Everton manager on the back if the Blues did win a trophy.

You would be right, but unfortunately this does not seem to be likely in the immediate future.

DANIEL TASKER, HADDENHAM.

● What do other Evertonians think?

Who needs the old firm?

WITH regard to SHOOT's special report on the Old Firm, Scotland does not need a strong Rangers and Celtic.

Rangers and Celtic take support from other areas. If you went to Aberdeen, Dundee, Paisley, etc., you would see them bedecked in blue or green clamoring on to their buses.

Dundee United v Dundee League Cup Final — did we see rival supporters disgracing Scotland on the pitch?

Do supporters of League Champions Aberdeen feel the need to intimidate rival fans by singing about the history of Ireland from 1690 onwards?

Do supporters hide their scarves, leave their sons at home or just not go when Partick Thistle invade their town with drunken, rowdy supporters?

By now I think even the writer of the report must see the subtle differences between the Old Firm and the rest of Scotland's football teams. Does he really believe they would have the same considerable support if the religious

bigotry wasn't there?

Remember the weekend when West Ham saluted their fans after winning the F.A. Cup — the scenes were viewed all over Britain. Did we get the same coverage for the happy (peaceful) scenes at Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen when they returned with the League Championship?

No! The image presented by the media was that of the previous day's riot at Hampden.

It is well known that the English media love to put down the Scots as much as possible. Does Scotland really need the sort of coverage the media will dish up with a strong Rangers and Celtic? Or would the emergence of a New Firm, that of Aberdeen and Dundee United from the enlightened East Coast of Scotland, help repair Scotland's already tarnished image?

If we really need two strong teams let them be any teams except Rangers and Celtic.

A NEUTRAL SCOTTISH FOOTBALL FAN EXILED IN LONDON.

● This letter is fairly typical of many we received on the article. It's still a fact that the Old Firm attract the biggest gates to the other clubs — for better or worse.

Goalkeeping crisis

THE English superiority in goalkeepers seems to be dying out. Back in the 50's, England could boast Frank Swift, and in the 60's the great Gordon Banks.

At the moment Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton lead the way in English goalkeeping, and are admired all over the world. Also we have Joe Corrigan and Phil Parkes, whom I am sure could be the number one goalkeeper in many European countries.

However, at the moment there are no great young goalkeepers in England. A few years ago Mervyn Day looked a future great, but, however, he failed to mature and faded out of the public eye.

We have the likes of Gary Bailey (below) and John Lukic, but both at the moment do not seem in the mould of a world-class 'keeper.

If these two fail to mature who will wear England's number one shirt in a few years, when it becomes vacant?

DEREK PREST, LOW MOOR.

● I've no idea and I don't think Ron Greenwood has, either. Thankfully both Clemence and Shilton have four good years left — but after that?



ASK THE EXPERT

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Thames F.C.

I've come across a reference to a former London club called Thames. Can you tell me who they were?

JOHN VALENTINE, HASTINGS

● When Merthyr Town failed to get re-elected to the old Third Division (South) in 1930, John, a new club called Thames Association were given their place.

But Thames, who played at West Ham speedway stadium, were a dismal failure from the start — both from a playing and financial angle.

They finished 20th in their first season, bottom in their second — and then voluntarily axed themselves from the League by not even bothering to apply for re-election, and folded completely shortly after.

Embarrassed Rangers

Is it true Q.P.R. didn't play in the F.A. Cup one season because they forgot to send in an entry?

ZULKEPTI BUNIRAN, SINGAPORE

● Red faces at Rangers, Zulkepti, but it's quite true — in the 1926-27 season. Seems everybody thought someone else had dealt with the entry — and no one had!

But Q.P.R. aren't quite unique in that embarrassment — Birmingham dropped a similar clanger five years earlier, while Sheffield Wednesday sent their entry in too late in 1886.

SHORT PASSES

● Orient were known as Clapton Orient from their formation in 1881 until 1946; as Leyton Orient until 1966; and as plain Orient ever since. (ALEXANDER RAVENSHEAR, Ipswich)

● Arsenal (five wins) and Newcastle (six wins) have played in the most F.A. Cup Finals — 11 each. (SIMON PRINGLE, Durham)

● Ipswich Town were formed in 1887; turned professional in 1936; and were elected to the Football League in 1938. (NOEL CALLAM, Birmingham)

● These were the goalscoring times in the 1979 F.A. Cup Final — Arsenal (Talbot 12 mins. 2 secs); Stapleton (43 mins. 28 secs); and Sunderland (89 mins. 10 secs); Manchester United (McQueen 86 mins. 20 sec); and Mollroy (88 mins. 15 secs). (DARREN RYLANDS, Eire)

● John Toshack scored 74 goals in 172 League games for Liverpool before moving to Swansea on 1st March, 1978.

(AEGIR RUNAR, Iceland)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

10 adidas West Germany shirts to be won



Adidas provide the clothing and footwear for most of the world's top sporting stars, including European Champions West Germany. To make a bid for one of ten authentic West German jerseys all you have to do is to answer the three questions below about Manny Kaltz, seen wearing one of Adidas' shirts. Complete the coupon and paste it on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope.

Prizes will be awarded to the senders of the ten correct entries judged to be the neatest with age taken into account. The competition is open to readers in Great Britain, N. Ireland, Eire, Channel Isles and the Isle of Man except employees of IPC Magazines Ltd., and their families, Umbro International (Footwear) Ltd. and the printers of SHOOT. The closing date is April 22nd. The Editor's decision is final.

1. Does Manny usually play in defence, midfield or attack?
2. He used to be a team-mate of Kevin Keegan. For which club does he play?
3. Manny helped West Germany beat Belgium in the 1980 European Championship Final. What was the final score?

Post to: SHOOT/WEST GERMANY SHIRT COMPETITION,
55 EWER STREET, LONDON SE99 6YP.

Name

Address.....

Age.....

MY ANSWERS ARE

(1)

(2)

(3)



Diego Maradona feels the heat under the watchful eye of Briegel.

BRIEGEL The star with three lungs!

HANS-Peter Briegel looks even more impressive in civilian clothes than he does in the white shirt of West Germany. His tight brown curls, thin lips and square jaw top a 6ft 2in, 14-stone frame. One senses that he's a man who prefers action to words. And Briegel's particular brand of action has brought him to the forefront of European football and the honour of being named by German magazine *Kicker* as one of four world-class players currently gracing the Bundesliga.

It's hardly surprising that his superb physique is the thing that strikes you first about Briegel. He looks a superb athlete and before he joined Kaiserslautern he was one — dutifully following the advice of his father who felt that athletics represented a saner route to a healthy body than the physical clashes of football.

Work on his father's farm about 20 miles outside Kaiserslautern had given the young Hans-Peter a muscular frame, and it didn't take too much effort to transform him into a 19-year-old decathlon Champion who ran the 100 metres in 10.9 seconds; who long-jumped 24ft 4in; who triple-jumped almost 50ft; and who carried off ten youth titles.

It was something of a surprise to family and friends when he found himself in the first team at Kaiserslautern only a couple of years after playing in their youth team as a hobby.

"To be honest," Briegel admits, "until the beginning of last year I had terrible doubts about having given up athletics for football, because I felt that I wouldn't really get anywhere in soccer.

"But in the last year I've become convinced that I am a significant footballer, and my regrets have slowly disappeared. Soccer is now a full-time job for me and my days of making spare parts for machine tools and working on my father's farm are over.

"Naturally, I'm flattered at being considered a world-class player. I simply try to do my job on the field to the best of my ability.

"In the Bundesliga I play as a sort of stopper, but I go upfield a lot. On the other hand, I do a man-to-man marking job with the national team. I don't mind at all — I just carry out my instructions."

One of Briegel's most difficult man-to-man jobs was keeping tabs on Argentina's superstar Diego Maradona during the Copa de Oro clash in Montevideo. Maradona admitted to feeling overawed when he discovered he barely came up to Briegel's chest. Indeed, such was the German's stamina that Maradona thought he had three lungs!

'Disappointed'

"I'd never seen Maradona play, though I'd read how he was Argentina's new wonder boy. But really I was a bit disappointed. All right, he's an excellent player, but I wouldn't say he was superior to Rummenigge. Maybe he's more of a prospect because he's only 20 whereas Rummenigge is the same age as me, 25.

"And you can learn a lot in five years. But at the moment, I'd prefer Rummenigge in my team. I wouldn't say Maradona was more difficult to mark than some others I've had to face.

"As for my international career, well, I haven't had a great deal of experience. Only 14 caps. Obviously I'm learning all the time, and so is the West German team in general.

"We're forming a good team and I think it will improve if the same players are kept together.

"If we continue at the same high level, I feel that West Germany will certainly reach the Semi-Finals.

"I'm confident that we can follow up our European Championship win with an outstanding display in Spain."

MARIO GOES HOME WITH A MISSION

VALENCIA have been insisting that Mario Kempes is untransferable ever since they signed the Argentine striker from Rosario Central in 1976. But now the World Cup hero is back in his native country.

If Kempes slipped out of the back door at Valencia, his £1,600,000 transfer to River Plate has been filling headline after headline in Buenos Aires, and has given Los Millonarios fans something to cheer about.

"This move back to Argentina has come at just the right time for me," admits 26-year-old Kempes. "I feel as though I've done everything possible at Valencia, and my main ambition at the moment is to represent my country in our defence of the World Cup next year in Spain.

'Adapt'

"Menotti wanted Valencia to release me at least three months before the Finals so that I could attend training camps and re-adapt my game to the Argentine style — and this would have been difficult.

"Now my future in the national team looks brighter, because I can go to all the training sessions just like any other player."

Kempes was an overnight sensation when he arrived as an 'unknown' five years ago, and became the idol of the Valencia fans when he topped the Spanish goal charts in his first two seasons.



Welcome home! Senor Grondona, president of the Argentina F.A. greets Mario, while Menotti shows a rare hint of happiness.

But, ironically, ever since he was top scorer in Argentina's World Cup triumph and became a household name all over the world, his form for Valencia has slumped alarmingly — a fact that many of our readers were reluctant to believe when our correspondent in Spain Graham Turner wrote a feature entitled "Mario Kempes — Superstar or Twelve Day Wonder?" back in 1979.

Since then, the Valencia fans and the Spanish Press have been demanding World Cup Final form from Mario in every match; opposing teams have given him personal attention in the form of the club's best hatchet-men; and the pressure has finally become too much for the easy-going Argentine rated by many as the deadliest striker in the world.

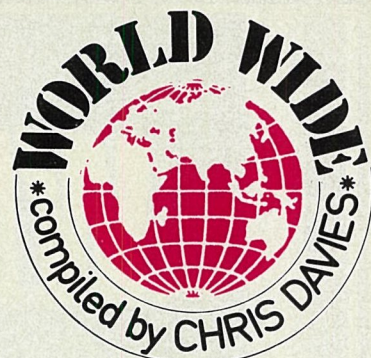
Despite the recent criticisms, Mario has, after all, served the Spanish club well during the last

five seasons, and his 125 goals helped Valencia win the Spanish Cup in 1979 and clinch a knife-edged victory over Arsenal in last season's Cup-Winners' Cup.

Valencia have also made a handsome profit on the unknown youngster they signed for a mere £275,000.

But it speaks volumes for Mario's desire to get away that he's agreed to forego his 15 per cent share of the transfer fee, and accept £65,000 instead of £240,000.

What's more, his basic pay of £4,250 a month at River Plate is appreciably less than he's been earning at Valencia, though match bonuses may help reduce the distance if River can repeat last year's title win.



Krankl pays his own fee

WHILE Austrian ace Hans Krankl seems to have rediscovered his goalscoring flair back home with Rapid Vienna, his longer term future continues to look somewhat less than certain. Rapid are so broke that they are unlikely to be able to afford to sign Krankl at the end of the season, and they haven't even been able to find the £20,000 demanded by Barcelona to have the striker on loan.

Hans is believed to have paid the fee out of his own pocket.

THE Cuban authorities are clearly taking their country's chances of qualifying for the 1982 World Cup Finals very seriously indeed. Before the CONCACAF play-offs in November they're going to play... wait for it... 50 preparation matches!

Drunk player

PICTURESQUE incident in Peru, where Municipal's star striker Hugo Sotil took the field in what was described as "an advanced state of inebriation following large-scale consumption of alcohol".

Sotil had to be substituted during the first-half, and he was attacked by angry fans as he zig-zagged his way out of the stadium!

COLD SHOULDER FOR CRUYFF

BARCELONA'S West German star Bernd Schuster recently crossed paths with Johan Cruyff at Barcelona airport, and refused point-blank to pose for photographs with the Dutchman.

"No," he explained, "I don't want to speak to him. I remember that when he was with Barcelona he had a row with the manager Hennes Weisweiler and even spat at him. I have nothing but admiration for Herr Weisweiler, my boss at Cologne, and I find it unacceptable that Cruyff should treat him with disrespect."

Honest Arne

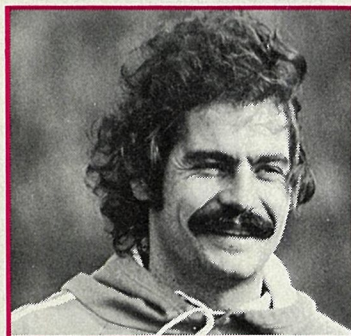
THE most honest man in German football... that's the title given to Arne Okland of Bayern Leverkusen after their shock 3-0 win over Championship contenders Bayern Munich.

A hat-trick in 20 minutes by Okland sent Leverkusen on their way to victory. In the 71st minute he 'scored' a fourth.

The linesman and referee awarded the goal and Bayern were lining up to kick-off when Okland, after talking to his team-mates, told the ref his shot had, in fact, only hit the side netting.

Amazingly the ref then awarded a goal-kick to Bayern. The question asked after the game was whether Okland would have been so honest had the score been 0-0...

ST. ETIENNE finally made it back to the top of the French League thanks to a 5-1 win over Monaco. For months they'd been trailing defending Champions Nantes, who slipped back to second place on goal difference after dropping a home point to Strasbourg.



RIVELINO (above) could be on his way back to Brazil after three years in oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

The former Brazil captain's contract expires in May and he says: "Enough is enough. I've been here for too long and I'm tired of living alone.

"My wife and family could not settle and returned to Rio. Now the time has come for me to go, too."

The princes who own the El Halal club have different ideas, though. "When Rivelino sees our terms for the new contract he will find it's an offer he can't refuse," they say.

REAL MADRID have fined their goalkeeper Garcia Remon after an incident-packed Spanish League match in San Sebastian, in which his team-mate Sabido was sent-off. Garcia Remon made a couple of disrespectful gestures to the crowd behind the goal during the game, and passions ran so high that he was badly beaten up by a group of Real Sociedad supporters as he left the stadium.

News flashes

● A referendum by Italian daily paper Gazzetta dello Sport made Luis Suarez (Spain), the best foreign player Inter-Milan have ever had, with more than 13,000 votes. Jair (Brazil), 3,267, and Stefan Nyers (Hungary), 1,386, going down to Faas Wilkes (Holland) with only 396 suggest that not so many readers can remember 30 years back.

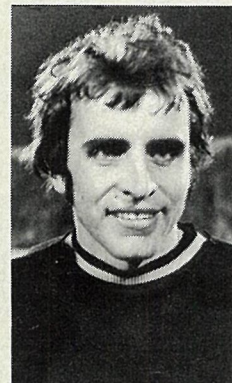
● Bundesliga club FC Nürnberg are more than £1 million in debt and their bankers have refused them further credit, even at 18 per cent interest. Their chairman, Dr Hans Riedl, is sure he will find another bank prepared to handle their account, but the interest rate will be well over 20 per cent, and the chances are that the club will be liquidated.

● The East German Under-21 team made a 12-day trip to Bulgaria to play three friendlies. They beat Division Two Haskovo by 3-2; beat the Bulgaria Under-21 side 2-0 and then drew 1-1 against First Division Trakia Plovdiv.

● Footballer of the Year in Finland is 22-year-old Aki Lathinen, a defender with PS Olou who has 16 full caps.

● Goalkeepers always did play on longer than players in other positions, but at the moment there are a string of goalkeepers with many caps. Jurgen Croy (right) of East Germany tops the list with 91 caps; followed by Pat Jennings (82) and Dino Zoff with 77. Ronnie Hellstrom, the Swedish World Cup 'keeper playing in West Germany, has 75 caps.

● Vaclav Jezek, the manager of Feyenoord who led Czechoslovakia to success in the 1976 European Championship, has received Czech F.A. approval to stay with the Rotterdam club for one more year.



WEMBLEY STALEMATE



THE 1981 League Cup Final at Wembley was not a particularly exciting match . . . until the 117th minute, when Alan Kennedy scored for Liverpool. That was the cue for three of the stormiest minutes in the famous stadium's history. Our photographer was there to capture the drama.

Alan Kennedy
Sammy Lee g
said not and
word . . .



Kenny Dalglish puts pressure on the West Ham defence with this overhead kick.



's shot is on its way into the West Ham goal, with rounded. Was he interfering with play? Clive Thomas his word is final. But it certainly wasn't the last



A great save — the bad news for Liverpool was that it was Terry McDermott and not Ray Clemence who made it.

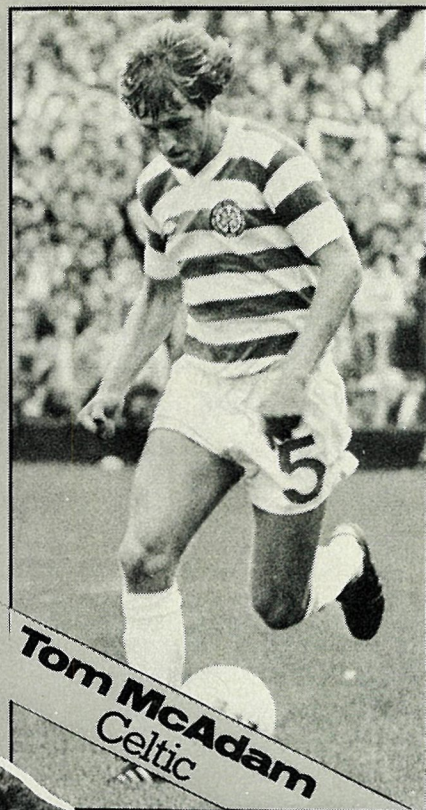


With the last kick of the game Ray Stewart makes it 1-1 with one of the most memorable penalties at Wembley.

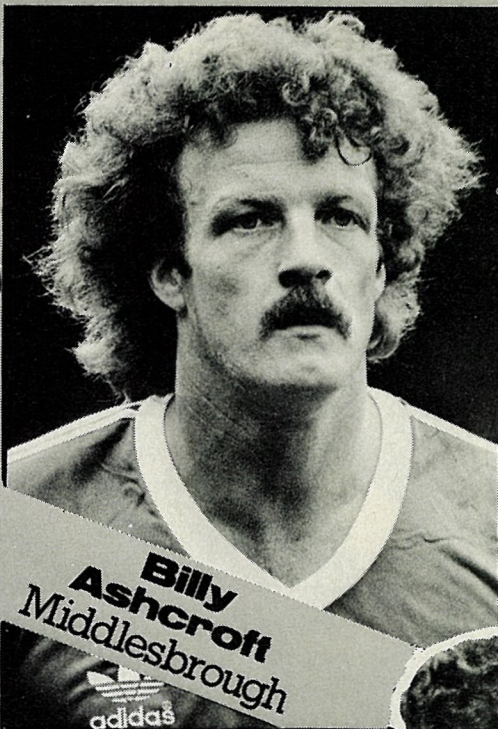
SHOOT!

NINE TO FIVE

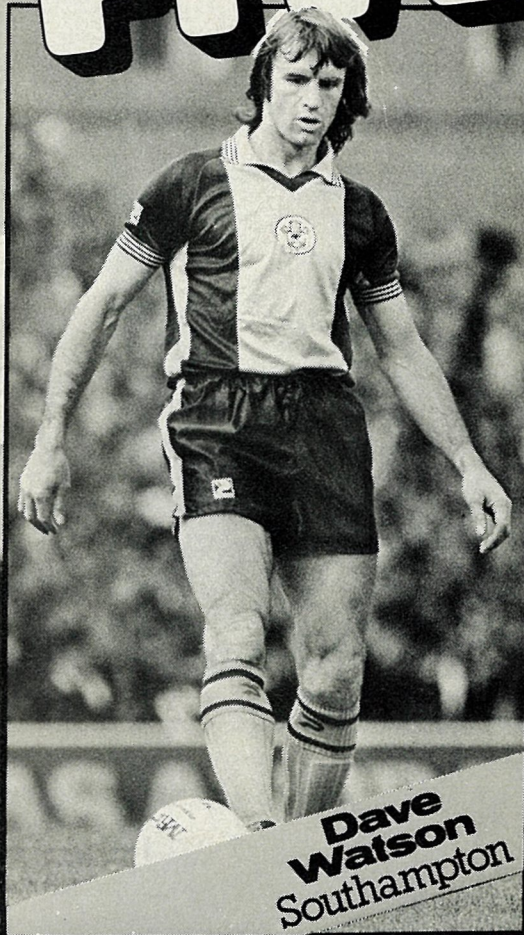
They've all switched
successfully from striker to
central defender



Tom McAdam
Celtic



Billy Ashcroft
Middlesbrough



Dave Watson
Southampton



Mike Lyons
Everton



Kenny Burns
Forest

'I'LL BE BACK' declares Woods



FOR those fans who've wondered what has happened to Clive Woods since his transfer to Norwich City from Ipswich last March, the long-serving winger has a ready answer. He says: "Don't write me off — I'll be back." Certainly things haven't gone at all smoothly for Woods. He was left out of the City side following an away defeat at Stoke in November, turned out in games for the reserves, and in one of them received an injury which put him out of action for several weeks.

Says Clive: "Ironically, it was a collision with a team-mate, Duncan Forbes, which resulted in my breaking a toe."

'Considered'

"That lay-off came at the same time as Norwich were losing 6-0 to Manchester City in the F.A. Cup, when I could have been considered for a recall to the first team."

"Since then, I've kept in condition by weight-lifting and exercising, and now I am ready to fight back to regain my place in the side. My morale is top-class, and I've never regretted my move to Norwich."

For Woods, who described his signing for City as a "dream transfer", there had been seasons during his 11-year spell with Ipswich when the Portman Road club had challenged strongly for the First Division title without managing to lift it.

Woods says: "I felt I was lucky to have been part of an Ipswich side that could rank with the best in the country."

"Then, at 31, when I joined my home-town team, Norwich, where I've lived for years, I reckoned I could play my part in helping City to a respectable place in the First Division."

Clive, who was signed for Norwich by John Bond, played in the last 11 games of the 1979-80 season for the Carrow Road club, who finished 12th in the table. But this term, City were deep in the relegation zone in March, and now face a battle to stay in Division One.

And the present dangerous League position of Norwich has given a further incentive to Woods to regain a first team spot.

He says: "When John Bond left to be Manchester City boss, Ken Brown put in a lot of hard work to get things sorted out."

"And the signing of Martin O'Neill from Forest and Steve Walford from Arsenal made a tremendous difference to the side."

"My belief is that we won't be relegated. We can finish fifth or sixth from the bottom and the use of different tactics has been part of our plan to escape the drop into the Second Division."

"For example, we've been trying a 4-4-2 system, which directly affects the role of a winger such as myself."

"Instead of playing wide on the left, up front, I've dropped back into midfield — but though playing in a deeper position, I'm still encouraged to make some runs down the flank during a match."

In the past, Woods made a valuable contribution to the Ipswich attack in his years at Portman Road, and his happiest memory of the 70's was Town's F.A. Cup Final win over Arsenal, when his ball skills seriously troubled The Gunners' defence.

"That Wembley game was the highlight of my career," says Clive. "After all, many players don't get the chance to turn out at Wembley, and overall, my decade in football has been an enjoyable experience."

"But I reckon I'm a long way from being finished, and hope to prove it before the end of this season."

Woods takes on Arsenal's Pat Rice during the 1978 F.A. Cup Final.



They said it...

"We still have a problem in that we'll reach seven or eight passes and there are murmurs of unrest in the crowd; and after 12 the murmurs are a crescendo. But you have to have the courage to go through the 12-pass crescendo of abuse." Howard Wilkinson, Notts County coach.

"If Scotland get to the World Cup Finals in Spain, 15,000 will be just the advance party. That many might go out a fortnight before, getting there early to claim a place behind the goal." Scotland manager Jock Stein.

"He's so unlucky Treets melt in his hand." Stan Bowles on his former Q.P.R. team-mate Don Shanks.

"It's as though other clubs have been asking about Sunday football: 'How cold is the water?' Well, the answer, you put your foot in and try it — and

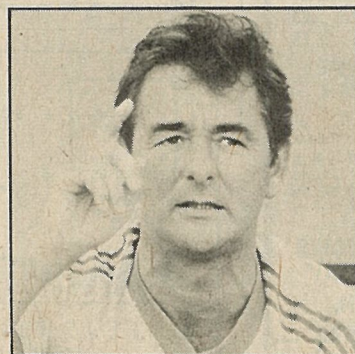
the water is quite warm!" Brian Winston, Orient chairman.

"It's a bit like complaining that Geoff Boycott hit only two runs after lunch when he had scored 98 in the morning." West Ham's David Cross on criticism that he scored more goals in the first half of the season.

"Boro have long been labelled a defensive side. If people say and write a thing often enough it becomes accepted fact. Dr. Goebbels proved that in Germany in the 30's and 40's. I don't care what people say or think. I get on with my job and I don't go by the book." John Neal, Middlesbrough manager.

"With referees like this bloke Spain will win the 1982 World Cup." France manager Michel Hidalgo after Spain had beaten France 1-0 thanks to a late

penalty and some dubious refereeing. "Rumanian referee Carol Jurja revealed acute eyesight problems when he got near the Spanish penalty area." Madrid sports paper AS, commenting on the same game.



"I have been with chairmen who have been jealous of the cash they have had to pay me because of my success. I have worked for different directors who have handed over 4,000 quid reluctantly when I have earned it."

"I have never felt like that, and I would love everybody to have a Rolls-Royce, good schools for their children, a turkey, a Christmas stocking."

"But I know there are people who have Rolls-Royces who don't want anyone else to have one, and I know people who live in big houses and don't want anyone else to have a big house." Brian Clough.

"Thank God and the Virgin (Mary) that there is a club like Boca which has the money to pay us and that Diego Maradona can stay in the country." The president of Argentinos Juniors, Prosperio Consoli.

"I'm not a flop. I've played 30-odd games and perhaps in half a dozen of them I've been below par. Circumstances rather than lack of ability on my part have prevented me from making any kind of impact at Albion. My definition of a flop is someone who loses ability — not someone who is denied the opportunity to use it." West Brom's David Mills.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday, March 7

Scottish Second

(Continued)

CLYDE (2) 3 (Dempster, Masterton, Ahern pen)
FORFAR (0) 1 (Farningham) 500

QoS (1) 2 (Coughlin, Robertson)
EAST FIFE (1) 1 (Halley) 1,000

STRANRAER (1) 1 (Harvey)
QUEEN'S PARK (1) 1 (Nicholson) 400

Alloa v Albion, Cowdenbeath v Meadowbank, Montrose v Stenhousemuir postponed

Sunday, March 8

Third Division

MILLWALL (0) 2 (Kitchener, Bartley)
READING (1) 1 (Beavon) 7,535

Fourth Division

BRADFORD (1) 2 (McNiven, Staniforth)
ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Esser) 2,926

DARLINGTON (1) 2 (Stalker 2)
HEREFORD (1) 1 (McGrellis) 3,491

Scottish Cup

(Fifth Round)

CELTIC (1) 2 (Conroy, McLeod) 18,500
EAST STIRLING (0) 0
Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Sullivan, Adam, Aitken, Provan, Conroy, McGarvey, Burns (McLeod), Nicholas.
East Stirling: Kelly, Blair, Renwick, Watt, Rennie, Lamont, Grant, Gourlay, Ashwood, McCulley, Robertson.

Tuesday, March 10

F.A. Cup

(Sixth Round replays)

IPSWICH (0) 1 (Muhren)
NOTTM. FOREST (0) 0 31,060

Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil (O'Callaghan), Gates.

Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Gunn, Gray (F), Gray (S), Burns, Needham, Mills, Wallace, Francis (Ponte), Walsh, Robertson.

WOLVES (1) 3 (Eves, Richards, Bell)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 1 (Hodgson) AET 40,524
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Clarke (Bell), McAlle, Berry, Hibbit, Carr, Gray, Richards, Eves.
Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, Johnston, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Cochrane (Shearer), Proctor, Hodgson, Jankovic, Armstrong.

Second Division

BRISTOL CITY (0) 1 (Tainton)
GRIMSBY (1) 1 (Cumming) 5,881

Bristol City: Moller, Stevens, Hay, Aitken, Nicholls, Marshall, Tainton, Mann, Mabbitt, Pritchard (Smith), Whitehead.

Grimsby: Batch, Moore (D), Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore (K), Broly, Whymark, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.

Fourth Division

DARLINGTON 0
LINCOLN 0 2,436

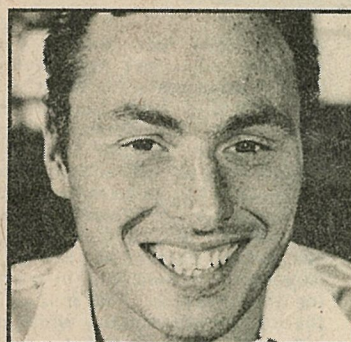
TRANMERE (1) 1 (Jackson (og))
BRADFORD (0) 1 (Campbell pen) 1,300

Wednesday, March 11

F.A. Cup

(Sixth Round replay)

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 3 (McDonald 2, Power)
EVERTON (0) 1 (Eastoe) 52,532
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Tueart, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.
Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Bailey, Wright, Lyons, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, McBride.



Bobby McDonald of Manchester City.

First Division

TOTTENHAM (0) 2 (Ardiles, Brooke)
STOKE (1) 2 (O'Callaghan, Heath) 28,472

Tottenham: Daines, Hughton (Brooke), Miller, Roberts, McAllister, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hodde, Crooks.

Stoke: Fox, Johnson, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Doyle, Heath, Bracewell, Chapman, Munro, Maguire.

Scottish Cup

(Fifth Round)

MORTON 0
CLYDEBANK 0 5,000

Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr, Busby, Marr (McNeill), Thomson, Tolmie, Ritchie.

Clydebank: Kenny, Treanor, McLaughlin, Fallon, Evans, Given, Ronald, Houston, Millar, McCabe, Gervaise.

Scottish Premier

AIRDRIE (3) 3 (McGuire, Flood, Rodger)
KILMARNOCK (0) 0 3,500

Airdrie: Gardiner, Erwin, Rodger, Walker, March, McCluskey, Flood, Clark, Anderson, McKeown, McGuire.

Kilmarnock: McCulloch, Robin, Cockburn, Clark, Armstrong, Clarke (Maxwell), McBride, McDicken, Bourke, Mauchlen, Hughes (Bryce).

Scottish First

DUNDEE (2) 2 (Scrimgeour, Carson)
DUMBARTON (1) 1 (Gallacher) 2,812

STIRLING (0) 0
HAMILTON (0) 2 (Fairlie, Howie) 350
Falkirk v Motherwell postponed

Scottish Second

ALLOA (0) 0
ALBION (0) 1 (Ross) 610

EAST FIFE (1) 2 (Neilson, Halley)
STRANRAER (0) 1 (Harvey) 500

FORFAR (0) 1 (Brash pen)
COWDENBEATH (0) 0 745

MONTROSE (1) 2 (Beedie, Robb)
STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Kirkland) 350

Friday, March 13

Fourth Division

DONCASTER (1) 1 (Dawson)
CREWE (0) 1 (Davies) 1,000

NORTHAMPTON (3) 3 (Denyer 3 (1 pen))
SCUNTHORPE (1) 3 (Grimes, O'Berg, Green) 2,046

PETERBOROUGH 0
WIGAN 0 3,455

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LINE-UPS... RESULTS...

SOUTHEND (2) 5 (Cusack pen, Moody, Spence, Pountney, Gray)
HALIFAX (0) 1 (Graham) 5,542
 Tranmere v Port Vale postponed

Saturday, March 14

League Cup Final

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Kennedy (A))
WEST HAM (0) 1 (Stewart pen)
 at Wembley AET 100,000
 Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy (A), Irwin, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Heighway (Case), McDermott, Souness.
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard (Pearson), Cross, Brookings, Pike.

First Division

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 (Withe 2, Shaw)
MANCHESTER UTD (0) 3 (Jordan 2, McIlroy pen) 42,282
 Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
 Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, Wilkins, Moran, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, McIlroy.

COVENTRY (2) 4 (English 3, Thompson)
LEICESTER (1) 1 (Young) 21,430
 Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Daly, Thompson, English, Bannister.
 Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill, Wilson, Lynex, Young, Melrose, MacDonald.

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0
SUNDERLAND (1) 1 (Hinnigan) 16,748
 C. Palace: Barron, Hinchelwood, Lovell, Price, Cannon (Bason), Gilbert, Smillie, Brooks, Langley, Walsh, Hilaire.
 Sunderland: Siddall, Hinnigan, Bolton, Hindmarch, Elliott, Buckley, Arnott, Cooke (Brown), Ritchie, Chisholm, Cummins.

EVERTON (1) 1 (Varadi)
LEEDS (0) 2 (Parlane, Harris) 23,014
 Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Bailey, Wright, Lyons, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, McBride.
 Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray, Flynn, Parkinson, Cherry, Harris, Hird, Parlance, Stevenson, Graham.

IPSWICH (2) 3 (Gates, Wark pen, Brazil)
TOTTENHAM (0) 0 32,052
 Ipswich: Cooper, Mills (O'Callaghan), McCall, Thisjssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.
 Tottenham: Daines, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, McAllister, Perryman, Ardiles (Brooke), Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.

MANCHESTER CITY (2) 2 (McDonald, Tueart)
WBA (0) 1 (Robson) 36,581
 Man. City: Williams, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Tueart, Gow (Buckley), Mackenzie, Henry, Reeves.
 WBA: Godden, Bennett, Statham, Moses, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown, Deehan, Owen (Mills), Barnes.

NOTT. FOREST (2) 4 (Robertson pen, Wallace, Mills, Burns)
BRIGHTON (1) 1 (Stille) 20,688
 Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Gunn, Gray (F), Gray (S) (Ward), Needham, Burns, Ponte, Wallace, Mills, Walsh, Robertson.
 Brighton: Digweed, Williams, Stevens, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McNab, Stille, Robinson, Smith, Gregory (Ritchie).

STOKE (0) 1 (Heath)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Keegan 2) 14,828
 Stoke Fox, Dodd, Hampton, Doyle, O'Callaghan, Munro (Ursem), Bracewell, Heath, Chapman, Griffiths, Maguire.
 Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Moran, Ball.

WOLVES (1) 3 (Richards, McDowell (og), Palmer)
NORWICH (0) 0 21,065
 Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Clark, Berry, McAlle, Hibbitt, Carr, Gray, Richards, Eves.
 Norwich: Woods, McDowell (Bennett), Downs, Barham, Walford, Watson, O'Neill, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, McGuire.
 Arsenal v Birmingham postponed

Second Division

BLACKBURN (2) 3 (Speight, Kendall, Busby)
SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1 (McCulloch) 19,222
 Blackburn: Arnold, Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Fazakerley, Brotherton (Hamilton), Busby, Lowey, Burke, Speight.
 Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Williamson, Smith, Shirliff, Sterland, Mirocevic (Johnson), Taylor, Leman, McCulloch, Curran.

BOLTON (0) 0
SHREWSBURY (1) 2 (Dungworth, Walsh og) 7,900
 Bolton: Poole, Graham, Burke (Hoggan), Cantello, McElhinney, Walsh, Nikolic, Reid, Whatmore, Kidd, Gowing.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Turner, Keay, Larkin, Tong, Atkins (Bates), Dungworth, Biggins, Cross.

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 1 (Williams (D))
CHELSEA (0) 0 7,565
 Bristol Rovers: McAllister, Gillies, Jones, McCaffrey, Hughes, Emmanuel, Williams (G), Williams (D), Randall, Penny, Mabbutt.
 Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rofe, Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Britton, Fillery, Mayes, Walker, Rhoades-Brown (Driver).

GRIMSBY (0) 2 (Whymark, Brolly)
NOTTS COUNTY (1) 1 (Christie) 12,184
 Grimsby: Batch, Stone, Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore, Brolly, Whymark, Drinkell, Mitchell, Kilmore.
 Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Goodwin, Kilciple, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt, Beavan.

LUTON (2) 3 (White 2, Moss pen.)
BRISTOL CITY (1) 1 (Pritchard) 8,745
 Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, Stein, White, Antic, Moss.
 Bristol City: Moller, Stevens, Hay, Aitken, Marshall, Whitehead, Tainton (Mann), Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Pritchard, Smith.

NEWCASTLE (1) 2 (Harford 2)
PRESTON (0) 0 11,946
 Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Davies, Martin, Barton, Halliday, Treweek, Wharton, Harford, Shoulder, Walker.
 Preston: Lichfield, Westwell, Coleman, Bell, Baxter, Anderson, Burns (Elliott), Doyle, Naughton, Bruce, McGee.
 Derby v. Swansea, Orient v. Q.P.R., Wrexham v. Watford postponed.

Third Division

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Norris)
PLYMOUTH (0) 0 3,933
 Brentford (0) 1 (Frost)
 Carlisle (0) 1 (Stanforth pen.) 6,211

FULHAM (1) 3 (Davies 2, Gale)
GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (Price, Ford) 5,445

HULL 0
CHESTERFIELD 0 5,488

PORTSMOUTH 0
NEWPORT 0 13,208

SHEFF. UTD. (2) 3 (Hatton, Garner, Givens)
CHARLTON (1) 2 (Walsh, Hales pen.) 11,687

SWINDON 0
MILLWALL 0 6,966

WALSALL (0) 0
OXFORD (1) 3 (Jones, Cassells, Foley) 3,185
 Barnsley v. Colchester, Huddersfield v. Exeter, Rotherham v. Burnley postponed

Fourth Division

BOURNEMOUTH (2) 3 (Mooney 2, Ferns)
DARLINGTON (3) 3 (Walsh, Wicks, Speedie) 4,995

BRADFORD (0) 0
MANSFIELD (0) 2 (Parkinson pen., Allen) 2,986



HARTLEPOOL (0) 2 (Houchen, Newton)
WIMBLEDON (2) 3 (Cork 2, Downes) 2,329

ROCHDALE (0) 0
ALDERSHOT (0) 2 (Sanford, Garwood) 1,834

TORQUAY (1) 3 (Bowker 3)
BURY (1) 1 (Butler) 1,635

YORK (0) 1 (Pugh)
LINCOLN (0) 0 2,222
 Hereford v. Stockport postponed

Scottish Premier

CELTIC (3) 7 (Aitken, McGarvey 3, Nicholas, McCluskey 2)
ST. MIRREN (0) 0 18,100
 Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Aitken, McAdam, Reid, Sullivan, Conroy (MacLeod), Burns, Provan, McGarvey, Nicholas (McCluskey).
 St. Mirren: Thomson, Beckett (McAveety), Young, Fulton, McCormack, Stark, Abercrombie, Weir, Bone, MacDougall (Logan), Spiers.

HEARTS (1) 2 (Redford (o.g.), Liddell (F))
RANGERS (1) 1 (Redford) 11,500
 Hearts: Brough, Hamilton, More, Liddell (F), Shields, Hamill, MacDonald, Kydd, Mackay, Gibson, Liddell (G).
 Rangers: McCloy, Jardine (McKay), Johnstone (Clark), Jackson, Dawson, Russell, Bett, Redford, Johnston, McAdam, MacDonald.

KILMARNOCK (0) 1 (Doherty)
ABERDEEN (0) 0 2,500
 Kilmarnock: McCulloch, Robin, Cockburn, Clark, Armstrong, McDicken, McBride, McLean, Bourke, Mauchlen, Doherty.
 Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Hamilton (Rougvie), Angus, McLeish, Miller, Simpson, McCall (Watson), McGhee, Jarvis, Scanlon.

MORTON (0) 0
AIRDRIE (0) 1 (Thompson) 3,500
 Morton: Baines, Holmes, Hayes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr, McNeill, Busby, Thomson, Tolmie, Ritchie.
 Airdrie: Gardiner, Erwin, Rodger, Walker, March, McCluskey, Flood (Thompson), Clark, Anderson (N), McKeown, Anderson (G) (McGuire).

PARTICK (0) 0
DUNDEE UNITED (2) 2 (Pettigrew, Milne) 3,500
 Partick: Rough, McKinnon, Campbell, Anderson, Whitaker, McDonald, Lapsley, Watson, Park, O'Hara, Higgins (Clark).
 Dundee United: McAlpine, Holt, Hegarty (Stark), Narey, Kopel, Bannan, Phillip, Kirkwood, Milne, Pettigrew, Dodds.

Scottish First

BERWICK (0) 1 (Hamilton)
AYR (0) 1 (McCutcheon) 570

DUNDEE (0) 3 (Geddes 2, Scrimgeour)
RAITH (0) 1 (Miller) 6,350

FALKIRK (1) 2 (Brown, Mackin)
HAMILTON (1) 1 (Alexander) 1,800

MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Soutar pen., Rafferty)
EAST STIRLING (0) 1 (Ashwood) 1,800

STIRLING 0
DUMBARTON 0 500
 Dunfermline v. Clydebank, Hibs v. St. Johnstone postponed

Andy McCulloch blasts Sheffield Wednesday's goal in the 3-1 defeat at Blackburn.

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, April 4th

W.B.A. v Ipswich

THE last two meetings of these sides have resulted in goalless draws and Ipswich have only scored once in their last five visits to The Hawthorns, since winning there 2-1 (Robertson and Viljoen) in 1971-72.

At present Albion hold a slight edge over Ipswich in League clashes with ten wins to the East Anglian club's eight, but Ipswich will be all out to make this their fourth win in 13 League games at The Hawthorns.

Leicester v Villa

MORE recent encounters have been lower scoring affairs. In November, Villa beat Leicester 2-0, and if they win again on Saturday it will be only their third League double over the Filberts in 28 seasons.

Spurs v Everton

SPURS have only beaten Everton once in their last 13 League encounters, that was last season when Paul Miller, Osvaldo Ardiles and Tony Galvin gave them a comfortable 3-0 victory at White Hart Lane.

This will be the 88th League meeting of these two clubs and so far Spurs have won 31, Everton 29, and 27 have been drawn.

When Everton visit White Hart Lane they are never allowed to forget that astonishing 10-4 defeat they sustained there in October, 1958. Bobby Smith four, Alf Stokes two, George Robb, Terry Medwin, Tommy Harmer and John Ryden put Spurs into double figures that day with Everton fighting back bravely in the second-half (from 6-1 down). Jimmy Harris, hat-trick, and Bobby Collins were their scorers.

Everton's most recent victory at White Hart Lane was 2-0 in 1973-74, since when they have drawn four and lost one of their League games on this ground.

Liverpool v Stoke

AS this is the 100th League game between these two clubs someone should be celebrating.

Liverpool have nearly always proved too strong for The Potters at Anfield and the visitors have collected only one point in their last 18 League games on this ground. That was back in 1970-71 with a goalless draw.

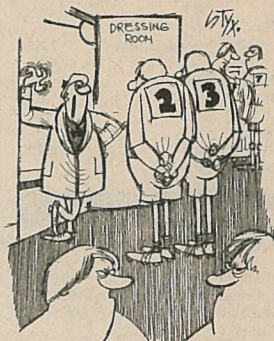
All three of Stoke's victories at Anfield were crammed into the 1950's — 4-2 in 1954-55, 2-0 in 1956-57, and 4-3 in 1958-59.

At home and away the totals of wins are 47 to Liverpool and 24 to Stoke, with 28 drawn. The biggest victory was in January, 1902, when Liverpool won 7-0 at Anfield.

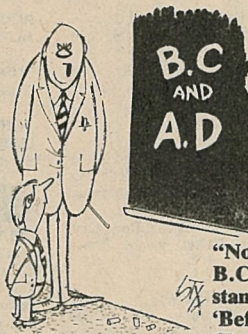
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"But boss — if we win our last six games and the others lose their last seven . . ."



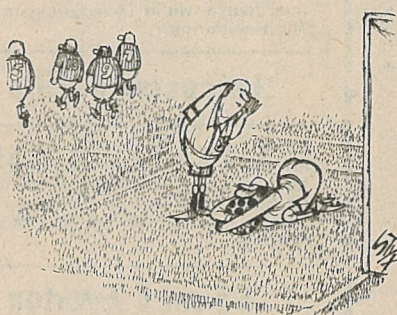
"When they scored their winner, how come you two were up the other end arguing with their 'keeper?'"



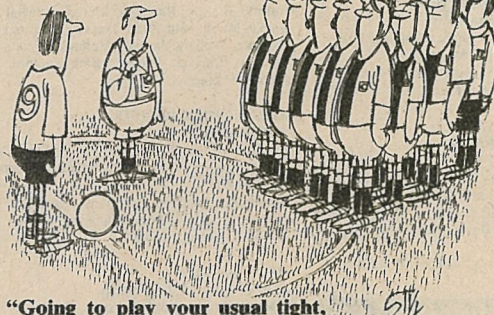
"No boy — B.C. does not stand 'Before Clough'."



This week Tom English, Coventry's hat-trick hero against Leicester, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Psst . . . it's all clear now. They've gone."



"Going to play your usual tight, defensive game this afternoon I see . . ."



"Admit it — you messed it up. Open goal . . . no one to beat . . . and you hit the corner flag."

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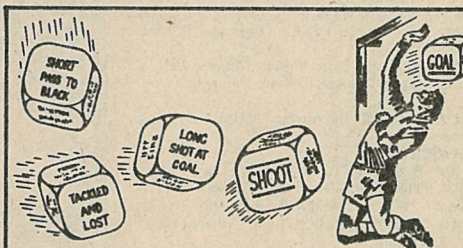
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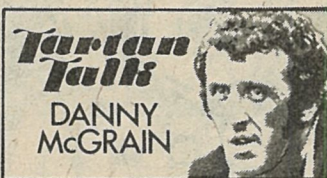
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'BURNS BEST NOW'

A COUPLE of Tartan Talks ago I was discussing the Players' Union Player of the Year in Scotland and my leading candidates, pointing out of course that I couldn't vote for any members of my own team.

That forced me to exclude Tommy Burns, Celtic's 23-year-old left-sided genius who is having a gem of a season.

So can I take this opportunity to



remind my friends in the Scottish sportswriting fraternity that there is nothing to stop them voting for my red-haired team-mate in their award?

There was a lobby for Tommy to be included in the Scotland World Cup pool which was chosen to take on Northern Ireland at Hampden at the end of last month, and while I understand Jock Stein's motives in not wanting to upset a successful squad which had taken five points from the first three games, I did have certain sympathies.

Improved

Tommy is a more mature player now, and his classy play is a major factor in our drive towards the double of League and Cup.

He really has worked at his game over the last seven or eight months after a close season fall-out with the club. It is hard to find a better midfield player in the country just now.

His disciplinary record has improved tremendously, and therefore both Tommy and Celtic are reaping the rewards.

So Tommy, who has put on much needed weight since his skinny days, will be a vital man when we take on Dundee United in a fascinating Scottish Cup Semi-Final at Hampden next Saturday (April 11).

It really should be an epic, because while we are flying high, United haven't been all that many feet below us.

They have already won the League Cup for the second consecutive season and are storming up the League table with a late charge which, had the start to their season been more consistent, might have won them the title itself.

Their talent to play the game since Jim McLean fired their ambition has never been in doubt, but this last year or so they have found steel to add to their flamboyant play.

Now they really are a threat to the big three of Celtic, Rangers, and Aberdeen and we could hardly have pulled a tougher draw in the Semi after relatively easy games against Stirling Albion and East Stirling.

It will, I am sure, be a Hampden sizzler, for United are blessed with some super players.

Paul Sturrock is vastly underrated, Ralph Milne is maturing into a fine attacking midfielder and Davie Dodds can't seem to stop scoring goals.

Their central defence of David Narey and Paul Hegarty is international class and veteran goalkeeper Hamish McAlpine is having an outstanding season.

And I haven't even mentioned £200,000 Eamonn Bannon yet!

But I might point out that we at Celtic Park aren't short of a few star players either, quite apart from one T. Burns Esq. whose talents I have already listed.

Frank McGarvey and Charlie Nicholas, for example, could end up sharing over 70 goals between them this season, and people like George McCluskey and Roy Aitken aren't averse to sticking the odd goal in either.

All of which should have the fans flocking to Hampden to see an epic. And there is only one thing I want more than a great game. A Celtic victory of course!

While we are battling it out at Hampden, things will be pretty hot, too, in nearby Parkhead where Rangers and Morton will be sorting out the other Semi. I wouldn't like to put any cash on that one, for there is a determined look about Morton in this Scottish Cup run.

Any bets on a Celtic v Morton Final?

See you in two weeks...

Danny McGrain

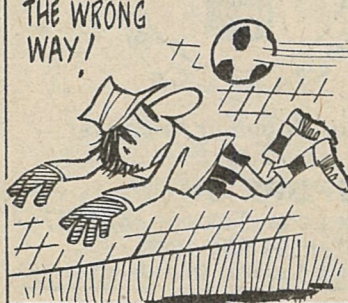
**TARTAN TALK
FROM RANGERS'
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NEXT WEEK**

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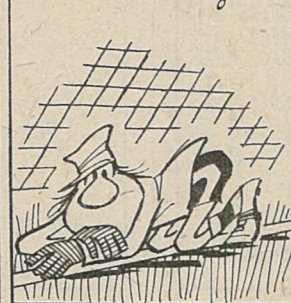
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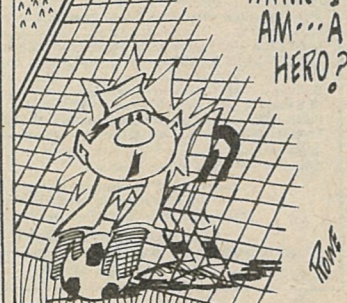
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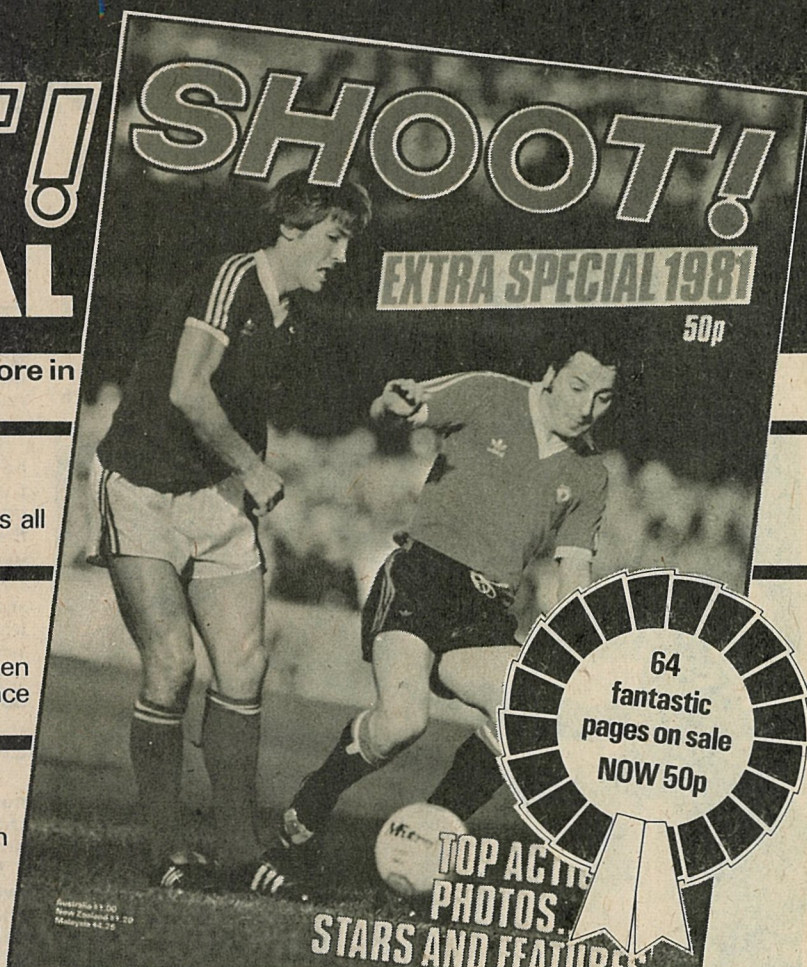


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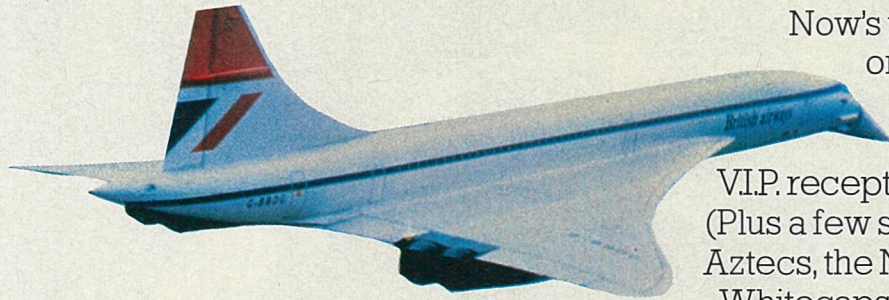
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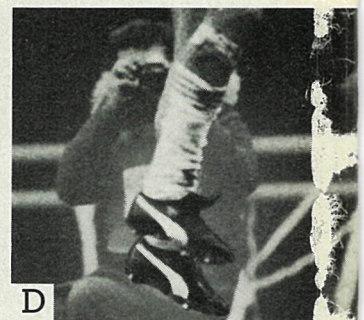


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ENTER CHOICE
HERE

Kenny Dalglish	1	Joe Jordan	5
Sammy McIlroy	2	Mario Kempes	6
Gordon McQueen	3	Peter Shilton	7
Andy Gray	4	Diego Maradona	8

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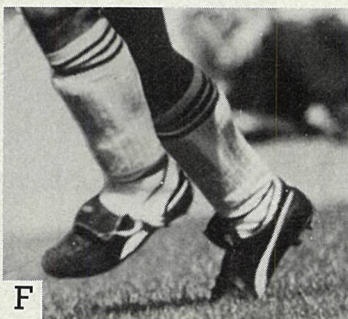
**All entries must be sent to: Account Promotions,
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All you have to do is look at the heads of the famous footballers below and use your best judgement to match them to their famous PUMA feet. Then write, in not more than 15 words, why *you* like PUMA sport shoes.

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5. The promoters do not hold themselves responsible for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery.
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11. The winner and runners-up will be notified by post by June 22nd 1981. The solution and a list of the prize winners will be available on receipt of a S.A.E. to the address below.
12. By entering the competition competitors will be deemed to have accepted and agreed to abide by these rules.

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BACK ROW (left to right): Gary Hoodlickin, Peter McDonnell, Jim Steel, Kenny Clements, Rodger Wyde, Paul Fletcher, John Platt, Ronnie Blair. FRONT ROW: Paul Heaton, Ged Keegan, Ryszard Kowenicki, John Hurst, Simon Stainrod (now Q.P.R.), Paul Atkinson.

OLDHAM

SHOOT!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

JIMMY Frizzell's decision to sell Simon Stainrod to Queens Park Rangers last November could well haunt the Oldham manager if his club drops into the Third Division at the end of the season.

Since deciding to part with his free-scoring striker for more than a quarter of a million pounds, The Latics have lost punch in attack and have slid slowly into the mire at the foot of the table.

Sadly, most of Oldham's troubles can be traced back to the time of Stainrod's departure. He was their leading scorer before Terry Venables bought him, and in early October the club rested comfortably in eighth place.

Frizzell has tried everything to restore Oldham's potency up front. Twenty-eight goals in their first 33 League games illustrates the feebleness of the Lancashire club's "powder-puff" attack.

a week later celebrated the introduction of Sunday football to Oldham by repeating the effort in another 2-2 stalemate with ambitious Cambridge.

Oldham are confident they can beat the drop. Frizzell was disappointed that rival managers did not poach a surplus of players available for sale when the transfer deadline approached. Sadly, weakening bank balances kept cheque books hidden and the manager was prevented from trying to buy the club out of trouble.

The club are unable to dip into the transfer market and the only way they could have introduced a fresh face to the 5,000 or so regular home supporters is on a player exchange basis.

Some critics were suggesting that Oldham should give Darren McDonough a chance to prove his worth in a striking role. Young and

STAINROD'S GHOST HAUNTS OLDHAM

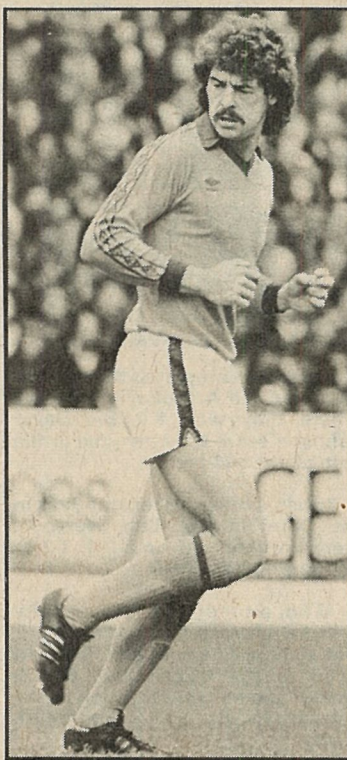
Yet there was a shaft of optimism glinting through the murk of Boundary Park. Roger Palmer, bought from Manchester City, and Rodger Wylde, signed from Sheffield Wednesday in 1979-80, broke a three-week goal famine in a 2-2 draw with Shrewsbury Town, and

Young forward Darren McDonough (white shorts) is tackled by Bristol Rovers defender Don Gillies at Boundary Park.

ambitious, he is as strong as a bull and has told Frizzell he will run through a brick wall for the club. What he lacks in experience, he compensates for in enthusiasm and no shortage of ability.

Frizzell, one of the longest serving managers in the League, scratches his head and says: "If I knew the answer, the slump would never have occurred."

"It has been a difficult season for us. We all knew we were in a



Kenny Clements has the experience to guide Oldham away from the Second Division relegation zone.

slightly false and elevated position in the early weeks of the season when things were going well.

"The win at Orient in January was a real boost, especially as they had been having quite a good season, and we managed to score three goals away from home for the first time this season.

"Roger Palmer got two of our goals that day, and he scored again the following week at Cardiff to ease the pressure a little, especially as Cardiff are near the danger zone as well.

"There is no way we can be complacent just because we won those three games though. The situation at the bottom is so tight we could still be fighting to avoid the drop on the last Saturday of the season.

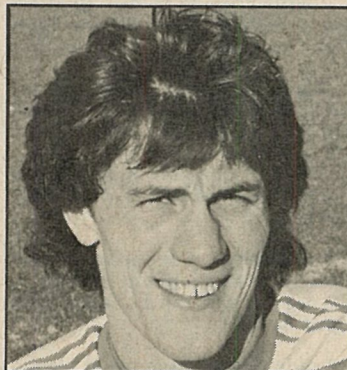
'Worse'

"My survival target is 39 points, which means roughly taking a point a game to the end of the season. Our home form this season has been worse than at any previous time in my management here, and that has to be the main reason for our bad position.

"That being the case, I have to put the emphasis on collecting something away from Boundary Park.

"The young boys who have come into the side like Darren McDonough and Martin Nuttall have done well, and it was particularly pleasing that we should win those three games on the trot considering we were without one of our most experienced players in Paul Fletcher."

Ged Keegan's suspension also handicapped them, but they have experienced campaigners in John Hurst, Kenny Clements and Roger Palmer and could yet cling to the life-line thrown them since Palmer's arrival and a return to the goal-trail Simon Stainrod once blazed.



Simon Stainrod

HONOURS

First Division runners-up: 1914-15. Second Division runners-up: 1909-10. Third Division (North) Champions: 1952-53. Third Division Champions: 1973-74. Fourth Division runners-up: 1962-63. Last season's record: Second Division: 11th. F.A. Cup: Third Round. League Cup: Second Round.



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

EURO CUPS

Liverpool, West Ham, Newport County and Ipswich Town were involved in European Cup-ties recently. Can you answer the following questions about the games?

1. West Ham were eliminated from the Cup-Winners' Cup 4-2 on aggregate despite winning 1-0 in Georgia against Dynamo Tbilisi. Stuart Pearson was their hero. Did he replace David Cross, Paul Goddard or Ray Stewart (below)?



2. Liverpool completed the demolition of C.S.K.A. Sofia in Bulgaria where they won 1-0. Did David Johnson score the only goal in the first or second-half?

3. Britain's other representatives in the Cup-Winners' Cup, Newport were knocked out on a 2-1, 3-2 or 4-3 aggregate score?

4. Who scored from the penalty spot for Ipswich Town in their 3-1 win against St Etienne at Portman Road in the UEFA Cup? Bobby Robson's men went through to the Semi-Finals on a 7-2 aggregate score.

TRUE or FALSE?

1. Celtic have won the Scottish Championship more times than their Old Firm rivals Rangers.

2. There are three clubs in the Second Division whose name begins with the letter 'C'.

3. West Bromwich Albion were once known as West Bromwich Strollers.

4. Ian Bowyer, Sunderland's capture from Nottingham Forest, is playing for the third League club of his career.

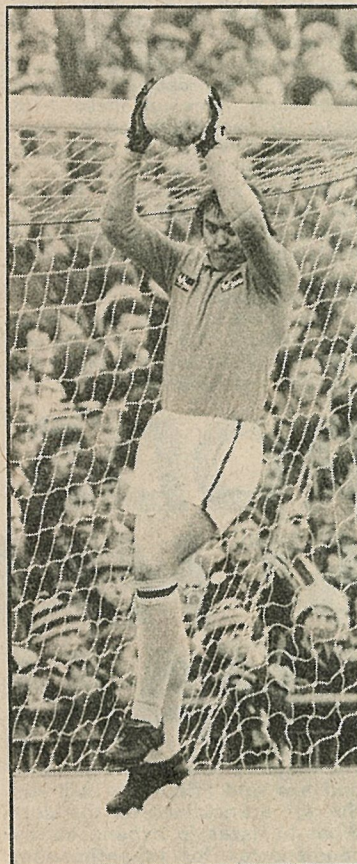
5. Leeds United have never played in the Third Division.

JIMMY RIMMER

Can you answer the following questions about the Aston Villa goalkeeper?

1. Jimmy Rimmer (below) began his career with which First Division club where he made 34 League appearances?

2. While with his first club, Jimmy spent a spell of 17 League games on loan with Swansea City, Stockport County or Shrewsbury Town?



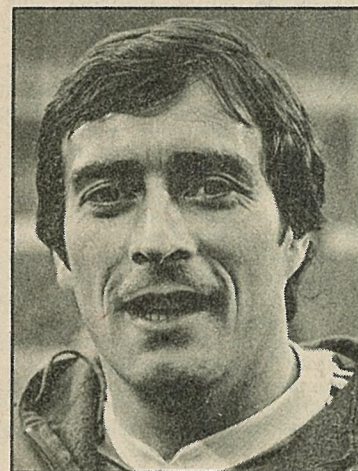
3. He was then transferred to Arsenal. Did he appear in 124, 134 or 144 League games for The Gunners?

4. Was he a member of Arsenal's F.A. Cup winning side of 1978-79 against Manchester United?

5. Jimmy made his international debut for England when he appeared in one half against Italy in America during 1976. Joe Corrigan was the other 'keeper used that day. Did Rimmer play in the first or second-half?

INTERNATIONALS

The following Football League players are full internationals. Which countries do they represent?



1. Tony Grealish (Luton)
2. Jim Platt (Middlesbrough)
3. Gordon Davies (Fulham)
4. John O'Hare (above, Nottingham Forest)
5. Phil Boyer (Manchester City)
6. Gerry Ryan (Brighton)
7. Colin Viljoen (Chelsea)
8. Leighton Phillips (Swansea)
9. Garry Waddock (Q.P.R.)
10. Willie Carr (Wolves)

TRACE-A TEAM

The names of 12 past or present Blackburn Rovers players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. How many can you find?

A	L	O	C	S	N	P	B	D	M	V	O
L	M	E	I	Z	N	E	K	C	M	S	C
Y	S	G	W	O	Y	E	L	E	E	K	G
E	R	S	T	R	L	L	N	S	B	E	I
L	C	S	R	R	L	L	U	R	M	S	A
R	A	R	O	E	F	O	A	H	S	M	R
O	M	A	A	O	H	N	D	D	D	E	C
M	B	S	W	E	A	C	C	B	N	A	K
G	K	L	N	G	P	T	T	R	O	E	M
V	E	O	A	C	D	S	A	U	O	M	K
R	T	N	C	G	C	G	M	M	B	G	M
S	D	C	M	C	C	M	M	L	D	H	A

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ANSWERS

EURO CUPS: 1. Goddard, 2. First, 3. 3-2, 4. John Wark.
INTERNATIONALS: 1. Eire, 2. N. Ireland, 3. Wales, 4. Scotland, 5. England, 6. Eire, 7. England, 8. Wales, 9. Eire, 10. Scotland, 11. Swansea, 12. Manchester United, 13. Jimmy Rimmer, 14. Manchester United, 15. Swansea, 16. No. 5, 17. First.
TRACE-A-TEAM: Butcher, Pearce, Keeley, Mooley, Branagan, Kendall, Garner, Aston, Craig, McKenzie, Stonehouse, Fowler.
ANSWERS: 1. True, 2. True, 3. True, 4. False, 5. True, 6. True, 7. True, 8. True, 9. True, 10. True, 11. True, 12. True, 13. True, 14. True, 15. True, 16. True, 17. True, 18. True, 19. True, 20. True, 21. True, 22. True, 23. True, 24. True, 25. True, 26. True, 27. True, 28. True, 29. True, 30. True, 31. True, 32. True, 33. True, 34. True, 35. True, 36. True, 37. True, 38. True, 39. True, 40. True, 41. True, 42. True, 43. True, 44. True, 45. True, 46. True, 47. True, 48. True, 49. True, 50. True, 51. True, 52. True, 53. True, 54. True, 55. True, 56. True, 57. True, 58. True, 59. True, 60. True, 61. True, 62. True, 63. True, 64. True, 65. True, 66. True, 67. True, 68. True, 69. True, 70. True, 71. True, 72. True, 73. True, 74. True, 75. True, 76. True, 77. True, 78. True, 79. True, 80. True, 81. True, 82. True, 83. True, 84. True, 85. True, 86. True, 87. True, 88. True, 89. True, 90. True, 91. True, 92. True, 93. True, 94. True, 95. True, 96. True, 97. True, 98. True, 99. True, 100. True.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (2) Keith, (4) Arc, (5) Carl, (7) Buff, (8) Millwall, (13) Lovell, (14) Foster, (16) McDowell, (18) Ends, (20) Fans, (22) Mel, (23) Brown.
DOWN:— (1) Ritchie, (2) Kick, (3) Her, (4) Anfield, (6) Law, (7) Bloom, (9) Lift, (10) Arsenal, (11) Leeds, (12) Slow, (15) Glasgow, (17) Off, (19) Omen, (21) Alb.

I PLAY in front of tens of thousands of fans every week, millions when the TV cameras are covering the game, and it doesn't bother me in the slightest.

Yet, I was terrified when I had to go up to receive my P.F.A., Young Player of the Year award at the London Hilton recently.

I thought I was going to fall up the steps to the stage, trip over a TV wire or drop the magnificent trophy.

The award is undoubtedly the highest personal honour I've had in the game so far. There is no finer accolade than winning the respect of your fellow professionals.

Although my name had been mentioned as one of the favourites I didn't really believe I'd win it. I thought it would go to Sammy Lee,

who has had a tremendous season in a Liverpool side not playing its best.

Sammy was runner-up in the Young Player of the Year poll. Southampton's Steve Moran was third.

My vote went to the fine Middlesbrough midfielder Craig Johnston, who is on his way to Anfield at the end of the season.

I was stunned when Geoff Hurst read out my name. All I remember was seeing Dickie Davies applaud and team-mate Peter Withe slapping me firmly on the back.

Speech-making isn't one of my particular talents, so I kept it short and sweet, trying to shut out the glare of the lights and TV cameras.

Then came an embarrassing moment. Dickie Davies told the 700

or so enjoying the occasion that they would see some of the goals that helped me win the award.

Up on the screen came a familiar figure. Not me, but Andy Gray. They had run the wrong film! I understand they sorted out the problem before the broadcast went out on the screens at home.

But the trophy doesn't belong to me entirely. It's shared with all those at Villa Park whose efforts have made it such a memorable season for the club.

Sixth in the voting for the Player of the Year was Tottenham's Steve Archibald, the country's top striker at the moment as far as I'm concerned.

Steve is a selfish player, always

lost mine earlier on this season. I became scared to shout for the ball in case I made a mistake.

Peter Withe told me to keep on playing and making myself available and I'd recover from my lean spell. I followed his advice and thankfully it's worked.

I'm no giant, but do quite well against the big centre-halves. Nine times out of ten they will win a ball in the air, but I can shield a ball and turn defenders. Providing I get the right service I can also destroy them on the ground.

Gordon McQueen, Dave Watson, Terry Butcher, Tommy Booth — I've played against all the First Division's top number fives, but they don't come any tougher or uncompromising than West Brom's twin centre-backs John Wile and John Robertson.

I made my first team debut against them as a bright eyed, innocent 17-year-old, in a League Cup tie a couple of years ago.

Neither of them take any prisoners and I ended up on my backside more than once. I was also sub-

**SOCCER
AS I SEE IT
Gary
Shaw**



'I MUST BE MORE AGGRESSIVE'

looking to hit the target, have a go by himself. That's what makes him such a dangerous player.

He took a while to settle at Spurs and get used to the pace of the English First Division after his transfer from Aberdeen, but now there's no stopping Steve.

Andy Gray is another striker I admire greatly. I was sick when he left Villa because I was looking forward to playing alongside him.

I did play with Andy once, in the third team when he was recovering from injury.

Panics

I also enjoy watching Kenny Dalglish. He never panics and seems to have so much time on the ball. Kenny's not an out-and-out striker. Nor am I.

My job is to get inside the box, snap up the half chances or lay the ball off for others.

I'm certainly not a bustling, target man like Joe Jordan. Although I could do with a bit of his natural aggression.

This is an area I must improve upon — and I don't mean I'm going to start kicking people.

I must pressurise defenders more, force them into making mistakes and win more balls.

I don't really see myself as a quick player over a distance, but I'm pretty sharp over five yards. Strikers need to be that half a yard up on defenders.

Confidence is, of course, vital. I

jected to the usual verbals, but I stuck to the job, put myself about and generally made a nuisance of myself.

I didn't score in that match. My first goals for Villa came in our 2-0 League Cup victory at Colchester last season.

Colchester beat us by the same score in the second leg at Villa Park, and I didn't play any more until near the end of the season.

My first goal in Division One was scored against Derby County in October, 1979.

People often ask if I've modelled myself on a striker like Denis Law. No I haven't, possibly because I never saw Denis play.

My idol as a 13-year-old school-boy was Malcolm Macdonald who was scoring goals galore for Newcastle at the time.

Our styles are completely different but Supremac's finishing was lethal. I watch most players in my position and try to learn something from each of them. Perhaps one day a youngster will want to play like me.

This Saturday (April 4th) Villa are away to Leicester City, a club still in relegation trouble despite a tremendous late run.

If Villa are to become worthy Champions we must beat the lesser sides of the First Division at home and away.

Leicester are fighting hard so they'll make it difficult for us. Should be a cracker.

Bob Wilson
Andy Gray

West Bromwich Albion's John Wile, one of the First Division's toughest defenders.

Everton..... Man. City Middlesbrough...

LIVING IN THE SHADOWS

FOR the first time in years, Everton finally stole some thunder from their Merseyside rivals this season with a 2-1 F.A. Cup triumph over Liverpool.

And if the Goodison club could just get a bit of success, Asa Hartford believes they'd get crowds that would crown the Kop.

Says Hartford: "We attracted more than 250,000 during our six-game F.A. Cup run, which was fantastic.

"I've often said that if we were successful, we'd get much bigger crowds than Liverpool and that proved my point.

"I experienced the inter-city rivalry in Manchester but I couldn't imagine City ever completely turning the tables on United because United are something unique. Even when they're not doing well, their crowds are bigger than anyone else's.

"But at Everton, we could certainly turn the tables on Liverpool. The fans are there if we can get some consistent results.

"For a while after our Cup win over them, we were in the spotlight for a change. And Liverpool found out what it was like to go through a bad patch, even though they came back to beat us 1-0 at Anfield recently.

"It was a nice feeling to be top dogs for a while, and now that the players have got a taste for it, they'd like to experience it more often.

"Liverpool have been the number one club in the city for a long time now so it's certainly time for a change."



ASA HARTFORD

MANCHESTER United have been the leading side in their divided city for years. And there didn't seem much chance of them losing that title to Manchester City at the start of this season.

City began so badly under Malcolm Allison that some United fans even began to feel pity for their rivals. John Bond, of course, changed all that, and the climax to City's season came with a 1-0 win over United in the derby game.

Defender Tommy Booth, who is in his testimonial season with City said: "That was a sweet victory after the year we've had.

"For the first time, we were able to walk around Manchester with our heads up. There's nothing quite like beating United.

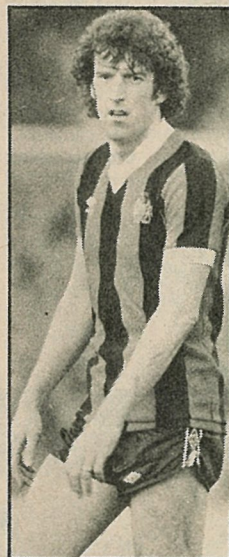
"We also took over the spotlight from them with our performances in both Cup competitions. It was a welcome change.

"Even so, United haven't suddenly become a bad side and we will have to do a lot more hard work if we hope to take over from them as Manchester's top team.

"I'm just glad that we've come out of the doldrums. We were everyone's favourites to go down early in the season. I don't think anyone would have given us much chance before John Bond came.

"Now we're looking a fair side. And after beating United at our place, we were right behind them in the First Division table.

"Let's just hope we can keep it up. It's about time we gave United a good run for their money over the whole season."



TOMMY BOOTH

MIDDLESBROUGH have been the North East's most successful club for the past four or five seasons. But most of the time, they live in the shadow of the big two, Newcastle and Sunderland.

Irving Nattrass, who saw the fanaticism at Newcastle before moving to Ayresome Park, says: "We have to work hard to get any sort of recognition up here.

"Even though we've had a better League position than the other pair for the last few seasons and, more often than not, have been the last North East side flying the flag in the Cup, we're always the third side in the area.

"I don't think we'll ever be able to change that, unless we are regularly at the top of the First Division.

"The other clubs simply have a bigger core of regular fans. At Sunderland, they attract about 20,000, at Newcastle 15,000 and at Ayresome about 14,000.

"It can be frustrating at times. The week after winning our way through to the Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup in front of a 37,000 crowd, we were back to 15,000.

"If we could play in front of 37,000 every week, I think we'd be almost invincible at home, because the players do respond to the support.

"Still, we have to live with small support and I must say that the fans who do come are great to us. They really get behind the team.

"We get a bit jealous of the support Newcastle and Sunderland have on occasions. But at least we've been proving ourselves top dogs on the park."



IRVING NATTRASS



Eamonn O'Keefe scores an F.A. Cup winner against Southampton.



Steve Mackenzie blasts City's winner in the recent derby game.



Tony McAndrew tests the Sunderland defence.

Notts County.....

Liverpool... Manchester United... Newcastle... Sunderland... Nottingham Forest. Five of the most glamorous clubs in Britain. But living in the shadow of those great names are four clubs struggling for their share of the spotlight.

DON Masson believes Notts County will finally steal some of the spotlight from their rivals Forest by winning promotion to the First Division this season.

Says Masson: "From the position we're in now, promotion is in our own hands. It will be great if we can get back into the First Division and our fans can feel that they're on an equal footing with the Forest fans."

"They've had most of the publicity in the town in recent years, so it's about time we reminded people that there's another team in Nottingham."

"This is the best County team I've played in. When I left to join Q.P.R. they were halfway up the table, and though they've looked likely candidates for promotion since, they've always faded."

"This season, we've been in the top three since the start of the season so it would be crazy if we missed out on the run in."

"We did have a sticky spell before and after Christmas."

"I only came back to County because I wanted to help them get back into the First Division and I'm delighted with the way things have turned out."

"I don't think we've pinched any fans from Forest this season, even though they haven't done so well by their standards. But we'd be happy just to be their equals in the First Division next season."



DON MASSON

ddie Kelly — an important part of County's promotion challenge



HOOLIGANS remain the greatest blight on the game of football. Their continued presence at our grounds is perhaps the greatest single contributing factor towards the decline in attendances.

At times it has seemed that terrace violence has been on the decline, but the waste of three lives at matches this season serve to remind us we are facing an urgent malaise.

Right-wing organisations such as the National Front and the British Movement have moved on to the terraces in an attempt to broaden their dubious political appeal, and the Anti-Nazi League hit back with a massive leaflet campaign on March 21.

SOCCER VIOLENCE YOUR SOLUTIONS

And in the middle of all this unwanted political trafficking lies the game of football. In our issue dated November 22, 1980, we asked our readers for their solutions to the problems of football hooliganism.

Fight fire with fire

Perhaps not surprisingly, many of you were in favour of a harsh, disciplinarian approach to the problem. One such letter came from R. Ferguson of Burton-on-Trent, who suggests: "We must fight fire with fire. Corporal punishment is the only answer. Flogging, the cat-o-nine tails or perhaps something more constructive such as enforced hard labour would make these morons think twice."

Others advocated harsher, even more extreme measures in a bid to curb the violence.

Identity cards

The most popular of all solutions was the issuing of identity cards to all supporters. A typical letter came from Jack Harper of Amersfoort, Netherlands.

"All supporters should have to purchase an identity card bearing a signed photograph at the start of each season. Entry to any game would be impossible without such a card, and any person causing trouble would automatically lose his right of entry for the rest of the season."

A simple solution? Many clubs already operate such a system for away travel, but without the co-operation of all 92 League clubs it would be



doomed to failure. The initial cost of such a system would also be prohibitive for the smaller clubs and would cause massive administration difficulties.

Sunday soccer

Andrew Hoffman from Bristol suggests: "All matches should be played on Sundays, when public transport is not conducive to away support, or early on Saturdays before potential troublemakers get the chance to get drunk."

Certainly the banning of all away supporters would be a large step in the right direction, but whether the missing numbers to compensate for the absence of several thousand away followers is questionable.

Ban away fans

Clearly, any new methods of combating the thugs would prove costly to a game already struggling under heavy financial burdens.

As James Bowden of Houghton-le-Spring points out: "I feel there should be a complete ban on away supporters, a ban on the sale of alcohol and the introduction of all-seater stadiums at every club in Britain. If all these measures were introduced, several clubs could be forced out of existence, but I feel that is the price we must pay."

All-seater stadiums would obviously help to minimise trouble, but the expense could be crippling. To expect every club to follow Aberdeen's lead is financially naive.

Special tickets

Judith Orchard of Shefford

writes in favour of a system which many clubs have already operated with a great deal of success: "Special tickets should be issued at the game before any potential troublesome clash of rival supporters. This ticket would be the only means of access to certain parts of the ground thus effectively segregating the rival factions."

Philip Kennedy of Lisburn made a pertinent comment when he asked: "If the terraces at Oldham had been in better condition, would the Sheffield Wednesday fans have had any bricks and concrete to throw?"

Close grounds

But our special prize of £25 goes to Gerard Thompson of County Laoise, Eire.

He writes: "The problem of football hooliganism should be shouldered by the clubs who accept the money of these troublemakers."

"The hooligan element is due to neglect — and I don't mean neglect from the government or parents. They have been neglected by the clubs, who have never taken any positive action to deter the people who cause trouble."

"In the past they have been content to call them 'mindless morons' or 'animals' and leave it at that."

"I am sure that if the F.A. stepped in and closed the grounds of all those clubs whose supporters consistently caused trouble, we would soon see some positive action being taken."

It is a sad fact that many clubs are unwilling to ban hooligans for fear of lost revenue, but sacrifices have to be made if this problem is ever to be solved.

The time for action is NOW and the game of football cannot afford to wait much longer.

● Next week Chief Inspector Paul Hooker will give his views on the subject. An authority on football hooliganism, we feel that many of his proposals would go a long way to improving the game.



PAUL COOPER —England's safest 'keeper

IT'S a case of now or never for Paul Cooper, the only member of the Ipswich Championship-chasing squad still to win an international honour.

The safest goalkeeper in the First Division — he recently helped to establish a club record for clean sheets in a season — says: "I've never played better. If I don't get a cap of some description this season I think I can forget it."

Cooper, signed from Birmingham City in 1974 for a bargain £27,000, was disappointed when he failed to gain the call-up to the England 'B' side which played in Spain on March 25, the same night the two countries met in a senior friendly at Wembley.

"I never used to bother that I was the only non-international in the squad," he says. "Apart from the fact that I had to train virtually on my own when the other lads were away, it had no great effect on me."

"But just lately I've got fed up with it all. Every time we're on television the commentators can't seem to find anything else to say about me. And I've lost count of the number of people who have

told me I deserve a cap of some sort.

"At the end of the day, of course, it will be up to Ron Greenwood. All I can do is wait and see, because I feel I'm playing better now than at any time in the past."

A first team player at his previous club before he had celebrated his 18th birthday, Paul is now 27. He admits there is no substitute for experience and understands why veteran 'keepers like Kevin Keelan and Pat Jennings have been able to play at such a high level for so long.

He adds: "The game gets easier as you get older. Not in terms of not having to put in the same effort, but being able to appreciate situations quicker and acting accordingly without being in any way nervous."

"We've always produced good young goalkeepers in England but several, like Mervyn Day for example, have been unable to fulfil their potential and remain at the top

"I was in the Birmingham first team when I thought I'd still be in the youth side, but then I went off the boil and lost my place. I could have gone downhill but I got a lucky break when Ipswich signed me. I made up my mind to make the most of it and I've worked hard to get where I am now."

Paul doesn't want to give the impression that he sees himself as the top contender for the England

number one shirt.

"Neither Peter Shilton nor Ray Clemence has done anything wrong, and there's so little to choose between them," he says.

"But both of them are on the wrong side of 30 and, while it may

be difficult to imagine an England side without either one of them, it has to happen sometime. So there may be a chance for a new face in three years or so.

"Ron Greenwood might decide on one of his young up-and-coming goalkeepers like Gary Bailey or John Lukic, as he did for Peter Shilton's replacement against Spain. Or he may go for someone in my own age group for extra experience."

Paul, quick to acknowledge that he plays behind a strong defence at Ipswich, is confident he can continue to improve as he has done in each of his six full seasons at Portman Road. He works hard at his game, often staying behind for extra training.

A slight weight loss since Christmas has made him even sharper, and England skipper Kevin Keegan is only one of several top players to give him the credit he deserves for his part in the Ipswich success story.

Experts

His incredible record of penalty saves from experts such as Terry McDermott of Liverpool, Mickey Thomas of Manchester United and Liam Brady, then of Arsenal, earned him considerable national publicity. But he has been a firm favourite with the Ipswich fans, who have christened him "Super Cooper", for much longer.

And fireside soccer fans who are glued to their television sets every weekend will agree that Paul is much more than just a stopper of goals. Several Ipswich efforts can be traced back to Paul as the player who got them under way.

"This is something I've worked hard at recently and the other players have become aware of it."

"One goal that always sticks out came against Spurs last season. Their back-four moved out to catch us offside, but Paul Mariner and Alan Brazil both came with them. This left Eric Gates to sprint through from his own half and he latched on to my kick to lob the ball over Barry Daines."

There was a time when Paul fancied himself in the role of striker. He remembers scoring two goals in a trial game for Shrewsbury reserves before deciding he had a better chance of making the grade as a goalkeeper. He certainly made the right decision.



Mervyn Day is just one of the young goalkeepers who has not fulfilled his early potential.

It has been a bitterly disappointing season for Manchester United, plagued by injuries and loss of form.

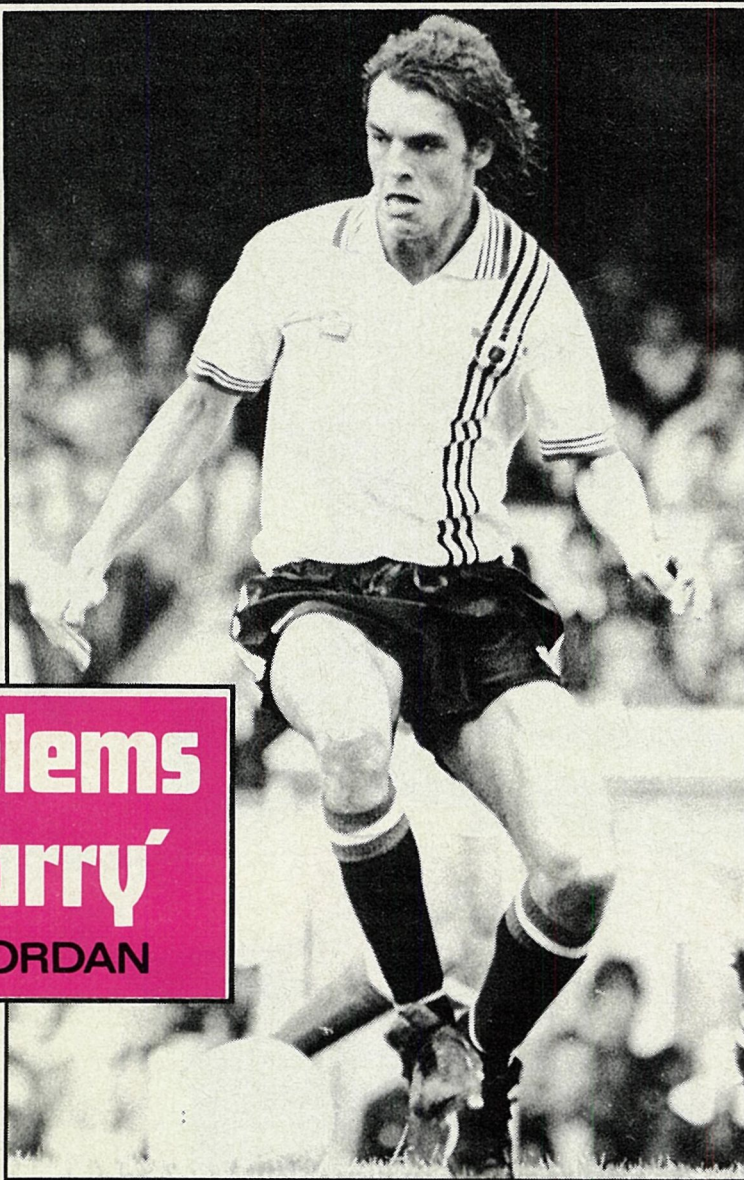
But for Scottish striker Joe Jordan, it's been one of his best seasons. And manager Dave Sexton confirmed that when he said: "Joe's been giving 100 per cent for us. He's shown tremendous character."

Jordan himself, who has proved to people that he can play football as well as intimidate opponents, says: "I think it has been my most consistent season."

"It was a funny start for me because I was injured in the first game and when I got back into the side it took me four or five games to recover my match sharpness."

"But ever since then, it has gone well for me. With the team struggling the only way to correct it has been to work hard and to concentrate. That's why I've been grafting so hard."

Jordan has completely upstaged Garry Birtles, who arrived from Nottingham Forest for £1.2 million



'No problems with Garry'

SAYS JOE JORDAN

and has struggled to find the goal touch that seemed so sure under Brian Clough.

Says Jordan: "He was unfortunate to come at a time when the team were lacking in confidence. It's hard work to get an understanding with another striker and we both have to rely on the service from the rest of the team."

"Garry's the type of player who likes to take people on, while my job's to get in the box and win the ball."

Jordan has surprised a lot of people with his footballing ability this season. He's also shown that he's not as wild as people outside of Manchester would have you believe.

"I've tried not to get so involved this season, especially with referees. I've had to bite my tongue on a few occasions but I think I'm a better player for it."

"It's obviously not easy in the heat of the moment, but I feel I've improved an awful lot. I just have to tell myself that I'm not going to see eye to eye with the referee on every occasion and try to accept his decisions."

Anyone who thinks Jordan is going soft, though, had better think again.

"I wouldn't like to lose my hard man image, because aggression is part of my game."

"For a centre-forward, aggression has to be important. It's just a question of my channelling it into the right directions and not letting it be self-destructive."

"When I get a booking these days it's usually for something really stupid like dissent. So if I can cut that out too, I'll be doing very well."

Jordan has thoroughly enjoyed his football this season, though he's disappointed that United haven't done better.

"Having come so close to the Championship last season, I think everybody expected us to be challenging for everything. It hasn't turned out that way but the long injury list has to be taken into consideration."

There is talk of Joe leaving United, unless he is given a pay rise at the end of the season.

"I love this club, but I must have security for my family. Unless I get it, I'm afraid I may have to go. Let's hope this business is settled quickly."

Garry Birtles (right) has been unable to score with the regularity expected of him since his £1.2 million move.

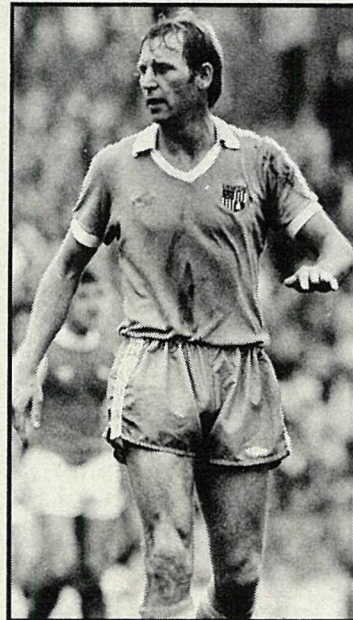


**WE HIGHLIGHT
THE
GLAMOUR OF
THE CUP
SEMI-FINALS
IN NEXT
WEEK'S ISSUE
OF**

SHOOT!

Ipswich . . . Spurs . . . Wolves . . . Man. City . . . Celtic . . . Rangers . . . Morton . . . Dundee United . . . we take a look at all eight clubs and assess their prospects of reaching the F.A. Cup and Scottish Cup Finals.

Plus Norwich new boy Steve Walford's challenge; Arsenal's latest international recruit Peter Nicholas and a blow by blow account of the dramatic career of Stoke hard-man Denis Smith (below).



And In Colour

Goals on the road to Wembley and international action featuring England's game against Spain and World Cup highlights. Plus focus on Brighton's star defender Steve Foster.

It's a big week in football next week, and SHOOT will be there to capture all the action. **DON'T MISS IT!**

FOCUS ON

GORDON STRACHAN

ABERDEEN

FULL NAME: Gordon David Strachan

BIRTHPLACE: Edinburgh

BIRTHDATE: February 9, 1957

HEIGHT: 5ft 6ins

WEIGHT: 10st 4lbs

PREVIOUS CLUB: Dundee

MARRIED: To Lesley

CHILDREN: Gavin (2)

CAR: Cortina Ghia

FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Record

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Steve Archibald

MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Too many to choose from

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Hibs

FOOTBALL HEROES OF CHILDHOOD: Pat Stanton, Pele

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf and tennis

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Tax man

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Scotland v England (1980)

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing last season's League Cup

FINAL TO DUNDEE UNITED FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Are there any in Scotland?

FAVOURITE FOOD: Corned beef, tatties, beans

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND

DISLIKES: Listening to my son learn to speak / My son getting too good at talking

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Ibrox, Parkhead

FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: John Cleese, Pamela Stephenson

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Relaxing and playing with Gavin

FAVOURITE SINGERS: Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond

AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Have a meal and a bottle of wine then watch TV with Lesley

BEST FRIEND: Everyone at Aberdeen, Alec Caldwell (St. Johnstone)

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My feet

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scottish School, Youth, Under 21 and full caps

PERSONAL AMBITION: To have another shot at Liverpool

IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? No idea

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Frank Sinatra

Gordon Strachan

SHOOT!